



4-H



NEWSLETTER

November & December 2023

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

Note from Joli...

Don't forget the unit-wide 4-H theme for the 2023-24 4-H year...***Make Time for 4-H!***

In thinking about this theme, a few popular sayings about time came to mind. I'll ask you to take a few moments in time to think about how these sayings could be applied to your daily life, and also 4-H.

Time is valuable. Time is a resource we can never get back. Time is ticking. Time is of the essence. Make haste, and don't waste time. Time waits for no one. Time is money. Better three hours too soon than one minute too late. Time flies.

"How did it get so late so soon? It's night before it's afternoon. December is here before it's June. My goodness how the time has flown. How did it get so late so soon?"— Dr. Seuss

Time passes before we know it. There is no better time than now to complete your 4-H enrollment, select projects, set goals, and plan for the 4-H year. You will find if you work ahead on 4-H projects and other requirements, you will be less overwhelmed when due dates approach and 4-H Show time is here.

4-H Club leaders spend much time planning 4-H club meetings, so please be respectful of their time and prioritize your time to attend your club meetings. Mindful planning also allows for more time to do other things you enjoy!

I hope you are able to enjoy some precious time with family and friends this holiday season. As always, take time to give thanks.

Until next time,

Joli

Early Enrollment Discount

Don't forget! Get your 4-H enrollment completed at <https://4h.zsuite.org/>. Remember, youth enrollments will have a five dollar discount if completed by November 30, 2023.

All club leaders, shooting sports instructors, coordinators, and assistants should also complete/re-enroll in the 4-H Zsuite online system. Please take a few moments to get this done!

4-H Federation members should be marked as members in the 4-H Federation Club as well as any 4-H clubs they are enrolled in.



4-H Newsletter Going Digital

Reminder...This newsletter will be going digital beginning January 2024. Please make sure you have listed your most current email address on your family's 4-H Zsuite enrollment. The 4-H Newsletter will be sent to that email address.

You will only receive a digital (emailed) newsletter unless you request a paper copy. Please contact the Extension office (309)543-3308 or email Joli Pierson at jkpierso@illinois.edu to request a paper copy which will be mailed to you. You may also add additional email addresses to receive the digital newsletter format. For instance both parents and youth email addresses could be added to the list so all are informed.

A benefit of the digital option is you will have the ability to read the newsletter from your phone, tablet, or computer. You will also be able to click on links and immediately register for events and add them to your device calendars, which can be a big time saver!

Steer Weigh-In & Tattooing

SAVE THE DATE...Steer weigh-in and tattooing is scheduled for Saturday, February 3, 2024 at 8 a.m. at Green Prairie Animal Hospital in San Jose. Please plan to arrive early. There will not be a veterinarian available on this date, if you need other animal services, you will need to schedule at a different time with the clinic.

In case of inclement weather on the day of the event, an alternate date is set for Saturday, February 10, 2024.

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.



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

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



November

13 Mason County 4-H & Jr. Show Association Fair Board meeting, 6:30 p.m. at the fairgrounds

13 Pleasant Workers 4-H Club meeting, 6:30 p.m., Christ Lutheran Church, Mason City

18 Happy Handful 4-H meeting, 9 a.m., Extension office, lower level

23 Thanksgiving—Extension Office Closed

24 Extension Office closed

December

11 Mason County 4-H & Jr. Show Association Fair Board meeting, 6:30 p.m. at the fairgrounds

11 Pleasant Workers 4-H Club meeting, 6:30 p.m., Christ Lutheran Church, Mason City

14 Mason County 4-H Federation meeting 6 p.m. at the Extension office, lower level

22-31 Extension office closed for holiday observance

January

1 New Year's Day—Extension office closed

5 Mason County livestock project enrollment deadline

8 Mason County 4-H & Jr. Show Association Fair Board meeting, 6:30 p.m. at the fairgrounds

18 Mason County 4-H Federation meeting, 6 p.m.

20 Happy Handful 4-H meeting, 9 a.m., Extension office, lower level

27 Youth Mental Health First Aid Training—In-service Workshop, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Extension office, lower level

February

3 Steer Weigh-in & Tattooing, 8 a.m., Green Prairie Animal Hospital, San Jose

8 Mason County 4-H Federation meeting, 6 p.m.

10 Back-up date for Steer Weigh-in & Tattooing

17 4-H Clover Clinic, Spoon River College, Canton Campus



COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, CONSUMER, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

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The Havana National Bank Award Winners Banquet



The 59th Annual Havana National Bank 4-H & Jr. Show Award Winners Banquet was held Friday, November 3, 2023 at the Havana City Center. Youth were presented a recognition certificate and everyone was treated to a meal served by Babe's catering. The evening entertainment was Magician Rick Eugene Brammer, who brought interactive science, slight of hand, and magic skills for the audience to enjoy. Congratulations to all youth who earned a special award at the county fair and were invited to the banquet.



Please be sure to send notes of thanks to:
Havana National Bank
Attention: Gary Mueller
P.O. Box 200
Havana, IL 62644



Mason County 4-H Federation



Mason County 4-H Federation members hosted a blood drive with ImpactLife Blood Center on October 12. The drive was successful with nineteen donors recruited, seventeen donations, which resulted in 51 blood products for lifesaving procedures in area hospitals.

The next 4-H Federation meeting will be held on Thursday, December 14 at 6 p.m. at the Mason County Extension office, lower level. Community service, holiday crafts, and a white elephant gift exchange are planned.

Mason County 4-H Federation Club is open to any 4-H member who is in 8th grade or above. This 4-H club is a countywide leadership club for teens. Members provide leadership, and activities locally, and at Extension unit-wide programs as well as provide community service projects throughout the 4-H year. It is a great way to meet and work with teens from around our county and other counties.

To join this fun club, contact Joli Pierson at the Extension office (309)543-3308 or email jkpierso@illinois.edu.



New Volunteer Requirement

Beginning this 2023-24 4-H year, Illinois State 4-H will require all 4-H Volunteers to complete 3 hours annually of in-service training.

We understand and greatly appreciate the time our 4-H volunteers already contribute to the program and we want to make this requirement as easy as possible for you to achieve. It is our goal to offer trainings & workshops which will benefit you personally as much as they do the 4-H program.

We will be sharing all upcoming opportunities for volunteer in-service trainings in this newsletter, via email, texts, and social media posts. Keep an eye out for upcoming trainings and mark your calendars!

If you have a suggestion for an in-service topic, we would be happy to seek approval from the State 4-H to offer it. Please contact Joli Pierson at (309)543-3308 or email at jkpierso@illinois.edu with any suggestions you may have.

Some of the trainings we plan to offer may meet Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) Professional Development Hours. We will let you know if the trainings qualify for those hours. This may be a great time saver for some who could attend one training and complete requirements for more than one entity.



In-service Workshop

Could you help a young person facing mental health challenges? Join us at the upcoming Youth Mental Health First Aid training on January 27, 2024 to learn how!

This internationally recognized training will give you knowledge and skills to support a young person who might be struggling. Learn about symptoms of mental illness such as anxiety, depression, ADHA, substance abuse, and trauma.

This training is essential for any adults who work with young people – parents, teachers, coaches, 4-H leaders, and more! ISBE Professional Development Hours available upon request. More details coming soon, or contact Emily at eschoe@illinois.edu with questions.

4-H Officer & Leader Training

The first volunteer in-service workshop was held on November 4 in Pekin. The 4-H Officer and Leader Training gave leaders and club officers an opportunity to interact and learn together. Club leaders were given resources and a tote filled with fun interactive games and supplies which can be used at club meetings. Youth demonstrated parliamentary procedure by doing a hands-on lesson. A resource fair was held offering presenters who are willing to attend club meetings as guest speakers. Other games, science projects, and hands on activities were demonstrated and participants took home supplies, ideas, and items they created which can be duplicated at their club meetings.



Mason County 4-H leaders Dawn Phelps and Keri Pequignot attended Officer & Leader Training representing Happy Handful 4-H Club.



HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF OUR ASSOCIATION!



Apply to be a member of the Illinois 4-H Alumni Advisory Committee

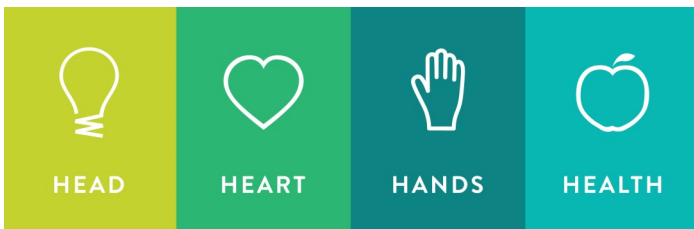


Applications Due November 15

Illinois Extension 

Are you 4-H Grown?

The Illinois 4-H Alumni Association seeks talented 4-H alumni leaders to serve on a new Illinois 4-H Alumni Advisory Committee to represent our diverse alumni population, increase alumni engagement, recognize alumni accomplishments, and support the Illinois 4-H Alumni Association's strategic goals. The Illinois 4-H Alumni Advisory Committee will comprise nine regional directors, three young alumni directors, two student ambassador directors, and one Collegiate 4-H ambassador director. The committee will launch this Spring. For more information about the Illinois 4-H Alumni Advisory Committee expectations and to download the nomination form, visit: go.illinois.edu/il4halumniadvisory. Completed applications are due November 15, 2023



Requesting 4-H Project Manuals

If you need any 4-H project manuals, please complete a request at go.illinois.edu/FMPTpubs. Once we have filled your request, you will be contacted and can pick it up in the office or request to have it available at a club meeting. This request system will automatically email you any free, downloadable project resources when you select those items through the site.

If you have any gently used project manuals that you would like to recycle, please bring them to the office.

CLOVER CLINIC IS COMING!

February 17, 2024

Spoon River College, Canton




4-H Clover Clinic is Back!

Join us for a day of hands-on fun at this multi-workshop event! Youth, ages 8 and up, will be able to pick up to 4 different workshops in a wide variety of exciting topics. Put 4-H Clover Clinic in your calendar for February 17, 2024 – and be on the lookout for more details coming soon!



Ways to Stay Informed!

Thank you for your interest in staying informed about all the great things that 4-H is doing in Fulton, Mason, Peoria, and Tazewell Counties! As you may know, the Illinois 4-H State Office has begun sending information about state and national 4-H opportunities directly to you via email. Due to this change, and our desire to pass along timely and relevant local 4-H info, we've decided to switch our paper newsletters to an Eblast (email newsletter) format beginning in January 2024.

However, we want to be sure that you can still receive 4-H info in a format accessible for you. If you would like us to print the Eblast and mail you monthly hardcopies, please submit your contact info and mailing address at the link below. Additionally, if you are not currently receiving the biweekly 4-H Happenings Eblast, or you would like to add an additional email address to the Eblast list, you can provide that info as well. This will ensure you are on our digital mailing lists moving forward.

Request a hardcopy or add an email address:
Go.illinois.edu/4-HNewsletter

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



IT'S TIME TO ENROLL

It's time to enroll for another fabulous year in 4-H! ZSuite, the 4-H enrollment site, is now open and available for youth, families, and volunteers to enroll in for the 2023-2024 4-H year.

Plus, anyone who completes enrollment by November 30 will receive \$5 off their annual enrollment fees. That's a 25% discount! Go to ZSuite now to complete your enrollment, or learn more about the enrollment process at the link below.

4h.extension.illinois.edu/participate/zsuite-enrollment-info

ZSuite is open!

Login now to complete your enrollment for the new 4-H year!

4h.zsuite.org



EARLY ENROLLMENT DISCOUNT
\$5 OFF
IF FULLY ENROLLED BY NOV 30!