



# 4-H NEWSLETTER

September & October 2023

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

## Note from Joli...

Welcome to the 2023-24 4-H year and happy National 4-H Week! We are excited to announce our new unit-wide 4-H year theme, "Make Time for 4-H!" We will carry this theme throughout the year and incorporate it in all parts of our county and unit-wide 4-H programming. We hope you and your clubs will also be inventive and find ways to include it as well. In our busy lives, it can be hard to prioritize all of the things we need and want to do. It is our hope to have everyone spend more time with all things 4-H and keep it at the forefront of your many priorities.

Change can be a good thing! Make note that this newsletter will be going digital in the coming months (January 2024). The great thing about this is you will be able to read the newsletter from your phone, tablet, or other device. You will also be able to click on links and immediately register for events and add them to your device calendars. One more way to help you "Make Time for 4-H!"

Until next time, *Joli*

## Discount for Early Enrollment

Everyone loves a discount! Watch your email for the bi-weekly 4-H Happenings eBlast for when the Zsuite site is officially open for the 2023-24 year. Once the site is open, all 4-H volunteers and members should plan to enroll at [4h.zsuite.org](http://4h.zsuite.org).

By enrolling early in the 4-H year, it will ensure you receive relevant 4-H information pertaining to your chosen project areas, as well as getting your family on the mailing list for our newsletter and other resources. For each member who is enrolled and paid online by November 30, 2023, a \$5 discount will be applied to the \$20 enrollment fee.

Don't wait! Take a few moments to complete enrollment for your family. You are just a few clicks away from receiving great savings!

## National 4-H Week is October 1-7

4-H members in Illinois will join the 6 million youth across the country in celebrating National 4-H Week Oct. 1-7. Clubs around Illinois celebrate this week by highlighting the remarkable 4-H youth in their communities and showcasing the incredible experiences that 4-H offers young people. Partner organizations can show support by posting to their social media, printing posters for business windows, and taking part in Spirit Week! Be sure to share your stories for #4HWeek to show how you are #IL4HGrown!

Follow this link: [go.illinois.edu/National4HWeek](http://go.illinois.edu/National4HWeek) for more resources including: clubs and volunteer printable items, social media posts, window signs, 4-H spirit week graphics, 4-H alumni resources, and 50 ways to celebrate 4-H!



SUNDAY

**Service Project Sunday**

MONDAY

**Member Monday**

TUESDAY

**Time Machine Tuesday**

WEDNESDAY

**Why 4-H Wednesday**

THURSDAY

**Thankful Thursday**

FRIDAY

**Favorite Project Friday**

SATURDAY

**Spirit Saturday**



**Illinois Extension**

## 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.



### October

- 1-7 National 4-H Week
- 9 Mason County 4-H & Jr. Show Association Fair Board meeting, 6:30 p.m., Fairgrounds
- 9 Pleasant Workers 4-H Club meeting, 6:30 p.m., Christ Lutheran Church, Mason City
- 11 New Family Welcome to 4-H meeting, 6 p.m., Mason Extension office, lower level
- 12 Mason County 4-H Federation Blood Drive 4-7 p.m. Mason County Extension office
- 12 Mason County 4-H Federation meeting, 6p.m., Extension office
- 15 Kountry Kritters 4-H Club meeting, 4 p.m., American Legion Post 561, Manito
- 21 Happy Handful 4-H meeting, 9 a.m., Mason County Extension office, lower level
- 31 Halloween

### November

- 4 Unit-wide Leader & Officer Workshop 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Pekin First Church of God
- 9 Mason County 4-H Federation meeting, 6:30 p.m., location TBD
- 11 Veteran's Day
- 13 Mason County 4-H & Jr. Show Association Fair Board meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 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., Mason County Extension office, lower level
- 23 Thanksgiving- Office Closed
- 24 Office closed

## Club Reporters/Photographers

What's happening in your club? As 4-H clubs start the new year and hold officer elections and form committees, here are two important positions for club members to consider: Club Reporter/s and Photographer/s. Members holding these positions can work together to take photos and write a report during the club meeting. Then send the report and photos of your club activities and events so they can be highlighted in upcoming newsletters or the bi-weekly E-blast. Submit your report and photos to the Extension office at:

[jkpierso@illinois.edu](mailto:jkpierso@illinois.edu)



**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

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 309-543-3308. 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.

## IMPORTANT Livestock Deadline!

Please be sure to enroll in 4-H livestock projects by **January 5, 2024!** 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 2024 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.**

## Mason County 4-H Federation

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.

The next Federation meeting will be held in conjunction with the club's first service project. The meeting will be held at 6 p.m. at the University of Illinois Extension office in Havana. Members will assist with the blood drive and get an opportunity to get to know each other and make plans for the upcoming 4-H year. Continue reading to learn more about the blood drive they are sponsoring on October 12.

## 4-H Federation Blood Drive

Did you know?...

- More than 4.5 million people in the United States need blood transfusions each year.
- Type O-Negative donors are universal donors. This means that their red blood cells can be transfused to any patient, regardless of the recipient's blood type.
- About 1 in 7 patients require a blood transfusion.
- The need for blood is significant. One pint of whole blood saves 3 or more lives.
- Every 2 seconds an American needs blood.
- 36K units of blood are needed every day.

### Please consider donating!

Mason 4-H Federation members will host a blood drive at the University of Illinois Extension parking lot on Thursday, October 12 from 4-7 p.m. Schedule your appointment today by following the instructions to the right. Youth who are 16 years old and would like to donate, must have a completed parental consent form. You may donate every 56 days. If you are a regular donor, the last date you could donate would be August 17, 2023 to be eligible to donate on October 12, 2023. Plan ahead, eat, and drink plenty of water the day you donate. **All donors must bring a photo ID.** All donors will receive their choice of bonus points for shopping the Impact Life Store or a gift card.



## National 4-H Week Theme

This is our time to tell the world about 4-H! This year's national theme is "4-H is a feeling!" Members, volunteers, and alumni can show their 4-H pride by wearing 4-H attire and displaying the 4-H Clover! Call the Extension office if you would like us to print a 4-H poster and 4-H Clover to put on display during National 4-H Week.

# BLOOD DRIVE

[BLOODCENTER.ORG](http://BLOODCENTER.ORG)

University of Illinois Extension  
Mason County 4-H Federation  
Thursday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
4:00pm – 7:00pm  
Donor Bus will be at:  
*University of Illinois Extension*  
127 S High St., Havana  
**APPOINTMENTS ARE REQUIRED.**

To schedule, scan the QR code above and select your appointment time, or call University of Illinois Extension office at (309) 543-3308, or email Joli Pierson at [jkpierso@illinois.edu](mailto:jkpierso@illinois.edu) or call the blood center at 1 (800) 747-5401.





## 4-H Shooting Sports News

On Saturday, September 16, 2023, the Illinois State 4-H Archery Competition was held at Pekin Archers Range in Pekin, IL. Mason County had two participants. Kallen Pequignot participated in the Jr. Division Recurve Archery competition. Kallen placed second overall in the junior division competition.

Eve Snider participated in the Sr. Division Recurve Archery competition. Eve placed first overall and will be offered the opportunity to represent Illinois 4-H on the Recurve Archery team at the National Competition in 2024.

On Saturday, September 23, 2023, the Illinois State 4-H Shotgun Competition was held at Brittany Shooting Park in Bunker Hill. Mason County had a squad of five participants. Kaden Hurst, Karlie Hurst, Austin Kluthe, Brady McLaughlin, and Kallen Pequignot. The team placed sixth overall, competing against thirteen teams. The team score fell just 26 points behind the fifth place team. Kallen Pequignot was a Jr. Division participant on the Mason County squad.

A shout-out to the Fulton County squad, whose members earned third place overall!

Both the 2023 4-H State Archery and Shotgun competitions were sponsored by Illinois Ducks Unlimited.

## Illinois Shooting Sports Leader Certification– Fall Session

A 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor Certification class will be held on Saturday, October 28, 2023 at Fairfield Gun Club, Barnhill, IL (Wayne County)

Disciplines to be offered are Shotgun, Rifle, Pistol, Archery, Hunting/Outdoor Skills and Coordinator. Registration is open August 1 – Oct. 20, 2023.

Anyone interested in attending will need to complete a volunteer application and background screenings. Please contact Joli Pierson at the Mason County Extension office (309) 543-3308, if you would like more information about becoming a Mason County 4-H Shooting Sports volunteer.



*Above L to R: First place Illinois 4-H Sr. Recurve Archery competitor Eve Snider, Mason County 4-H Shooting Sports Archery Instructor Ted Snider, and Second Place Illinois 4-H Jr. Recurve Archery competitor Kallen Pequignot at Illinois State 4-H Archery Competition at Pekin Archers Range.*



*Above L to R: Kallen Pequignot, Brady McLaughlin, Austin Kluthe, Kaden Hurst, and Karlie Hurst. Mason County 4-H Shooting Sports Shotgun Squad at Illinois State 4-H Shotgun Competition at Brittany Shooting Park, Bunker Hill, IL. The Mason County squad earned 6th place overall.*

## New Family Welcome

Are you new to 4-H? Or do you know someone interested in joining who would like to learn more? Join us at an upcoming New Family Welcome! These open-house style meetings will be held from 6 to 7:30pm at each respective Illinois Extension branch office. RSVP at <https://go.illinois.edu/NewFamilyWelcome>

- Fulton County | Thursday, October 5, 2023 | 15411 N IL 100 Highway, Lewistown, IL 61542
- Mason County | Wednesday, October 11 | 127 S High St, Havana, IL 62644
- Tazewell County | Thursday, October 12 | 1505 Valle Vista Blvd, Pekin, IL 61554
- Peoria County | Thursday, October 19 | 4810 North Sheridan Rd, Peoria, IL 61614

## Club Leader & Officer Training

Are you ready to make the new 4-H Year the best ever? Join us at the Club Leader and Officer Training on November 4, 2023 from 9:30am-3:30pm in Pekin. All adult club leaders and youth officers (and those interested in becoming a leader or officer) are invited to join us! Get tips and tricks about your position! Learn from other volunteers! Take home new activities, fresh ideas, and great resources!

Register for this fun packed day at: [go.illinois.edu/LeaderOfficerTraining](https://go.illinois.edu/LeaderOfficerTraining), then click on the orange “events” button from the list on the left of the screen.



## Fair Board Seeks Jr. Members

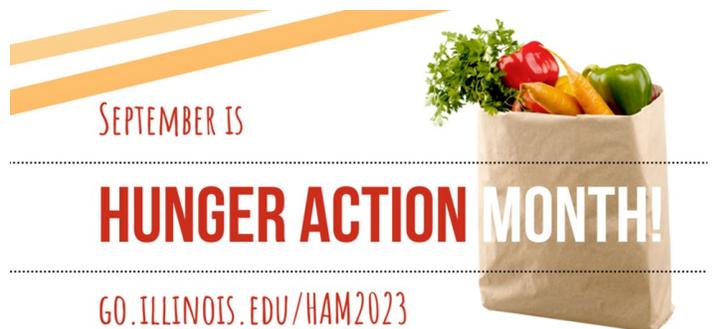
The Mason County 4-H & Jr. Show Association invites youth who are interested in being a Jr. Member on the fair board to attend an informational meeting. Potential junior members should be 16 years old and meet the eligibility requirements to exhibit at the Mason County Jr. Fair. Junior members will assist with fair board committees, and other fair related duties. Although this is not a 4-H sponsored opportunity, it is a great leadership opportunity for 4-H members to add to their 4-H Experience Award Applications. The meeting will be held on January 8, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. at the Mason County Fairgrounds fair office. Please contact fair board secretary, Angie Harp at (217)-828-0605 or email her at [angie.harp68@gmail.com](mailto:angie.harp68@gmail.com) if you plan to attend.



## Illinois 4-H Junior Leadership Conference 2023

Illinois 4-H Junior Leadership Conference (JLC) is a fun-filled event which provides junior high 4-H members (7th & 8th grades) a look into opportunities in Illinois 4-H and helps start their leadership journey. Members gain skills related to 4-H projects and leadership, such as communication, decision making, and teamwork while engaging in hands-on activities. Conference will take place Nov. 4-5, 2023 in Decatur, IL.

Find more info and register by October 13 at <https://4h.extension.illinois.edu/events/leadership-conferences/junior-leadership-conference>



In 4-H, we do a lot that focuses on food...growing it, cooking it, budgeting for it, etc. For some of our neighbors, having access to healthy food is a challenge. During the month of September, Illinois Extension joins organizations across the nation to bring awareness and help close the gap to food insecurity. Would you join us in the Hunger Action Month! There are lots of ways to get involved, like hunger walks, food drives, and more! Find out more at <https://extension.illinois.edu/events/2023-09-01-hunger-action-month>.



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**

# We're going digital!

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.

**Thank you so much for your time and understanding!**



[go.illinois.edu/4-HNewsletter](https://go.illinois.edu/4-HNewsletter)

