



**MAY 2020**

**MERCER**

### Deadlines:

**June 10** - SF Lamb Nominations  
**June 10** - SF Goat Nominations  
**June 10** - SF Premier Swine  
**June 20** - State Horse Entries  
**July 15** - SF Livestock Entries

### Events:

**All in-person events  
cancelled through  
May 31.**



### Virtual Office Hours:

Tracy is holding virtual office hours every Monday from 10 a.m. to Noon.  
 Reach her by calling 1-312-626-6799, and putting in conference ID # 099954

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### And the Winners are...

Thanks to everyone who participated in our 4-H Pledge Challenge over that last month. You all had great ideas! All participants will receive a prize. Youth who completed all 5 were entered in a Grand Prize drawing.

Honorable Mentions - Ryder Specht, Lilly Gillespie, Audri Elsbury, Bailey Callahan & Olivia Freyermuth.

Champions (completed all 5) - Dalton Carls, Lylah Franks, Curtis Martin, Steven Hollins, Maggie Mackey & Isabelle Mackey.

Grand Champion - Lylah Franks

Prizes coming as soon as we are allowed back in our offices.



Congratulations to the winners of the Mercer County Memorial Scholarship. All winners are very deserving long-time members of Mercer County 4-H.

Barbara Close - \$500  
 Dylan Cheline - \$250  
 Sheridan Hank - \$250  
 Evan Wynne - \$250



I pledge my HEAD to clearer thinking  
 My HEART to greater loyalty,  
 My HANDS to larger service, and  
 My HEALTH to better living,  
 for my club, my community, my country and my world.

## Ethics Updates

It is still required that youth exhibiting in beef, dairy, goats, sheep and/or swine complete YQCA.

Here are a few instructions:

- Use the 4-H Online option to log-in.
- The discount is now available to credit card payments.
- You can only test out of an age group if you are at the *beginning* of the age group.

**Junior** - only 8 year olds

**Intermediate** - only 12 year olds

**Senior** - only 15 year olds

The site will not bring up the test-out option to other ages.

### New State Fair Deadlines:

\*Subject to change at a moment's notice

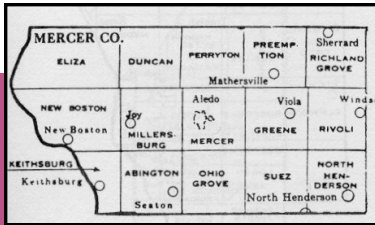
#### June 10:

Lamb nomination forms & Scrapie tag pictures  
 Goat nomination forms  
 Premier Swine nomination forms  
 -No weighing/tattooing, breed & ear notch only.  
 Contact Tracy if you need any of these forms.

**June 20:** State Fair Horse Entries along with ownership/lease and color photos

**July 15:** All livestock entries

SF entry forms available on SF website in the Premium book section.



# NEWS & notes



## Patti Jean Scholarship Winners

Dylan Cheline

Evan Wynne

Dylan and Evan are both long-time members of the Alexis All Stars and long-time livestock exhibitors. Dylan will be attending Lakeland College this fall to get his ag transfer degree. Evan is going to Iowa State University to study animal science.

All of us at the Extension office want to wish the graduating seniors the best in their future. Your contributions to the 4-H program are appreciated, and we know you'll use the skills you've developed to make the world a better place. We are excited to see the great things you'll accomplish!

Heartfelt congratulations go out to:

Dylan Cheline  
Evan Wynne  
Barbara Close  
Sydney Perkins  
Sheridan Hank  
Eliza Lilliman

\*Please see full senior spotlights on our social media pages.\*

## Phyllis Nelson Memorial Scholarship

The Mercer County Youth Livestock Auction Committee will be awarding the 2020 Phyllis Nelson Memorial Livestock Scholarship. Scholarships in the amount of \$250 will be awarded to a high school senior or college freshman. Applicants must be current Mercer County 4-H members and a livestock exhibitor. Completed applications are due by June 20 to Katie Laleman @ 16754 E 1600 Street, Geneseo, IL 61254 or by email to keboruff@hotmail.com. To request an application, contact Katie at (309) 337-1348 or by email at keboruff@hotmail.com

## Hamlet Hand Helpers

Submitted by Megan Gray

The Hamlet Handy Helpers 4-H Club held their meeting on April 19, 2020 through the virtual Zoom app at 5 p.m. Roll call was taken and two members were excused. The secretary, Megan Gray, read the minutes from the March meeting and minutes were approved by Caidel Monson and seconded by Matthew Gray. The treasurer, Makayla Monson, gave the balance for our treasurer's report, which was approved. Under old business, the craft project that we had planned for National Volunteer Week has been suspended due to the pandemic. If each family can send a monetary donation to the Aledo Food Pantry to help with this stay-at-home order that would be very beneficial to our community. Members were reminded to make sure they still go on-line and take the YQCA course for your selected age division. Under new business, a reminder to all members that no face-to-face contact will be allowed until at least May 31 at this time. Members are encouraged to participate in the 4-H Facebook challenges in order to promote the importance of 4-H in our community. We all moved to develop our own Facebook page that would be private. The 2020 Mercer County fairbook is available online and no printed copies would be available to members until the state lifts the stay-at-home guidelines. The fair this summer was discussed and right now it is still a go. One way or another, an exhibition will take place, we just don't know what it will look like at this moment. It may be a virtual fair. A talk/demonstration is still required for our members. They are required to video their presentation and send to the leaders or present during our Zoom meeting. Today, Anabel Fritch gave a talk about a Chicago trip she took with her family and related it to her visual arts project. Barbara Close gave a talk and demonstration about her timeline of her soybean field. Our next meeting will be May 17 at 5 p.m.





# NEWS & notes

## Around the State

### Online Record Books

We were asked to pilot a new online record book. This pilot is still happening even if exhibitions are held virtually. There is still time to participate! All we ask is that you complete an online record for one of your projects. This fall, we will ask for your feedback on the technological aspects of the website, the content of the record books, and the ease of use. You will be rewarded, in some way, for your participation. Here is the important information:

- Website to access online record book is: [4h.zsuite.org](http://4h.zsuite.org).
- A parent/adult should create the initial account.
- Individual youth can then create their own accounts with their own record books under that parent account.
- There are record books tailored to project areas.
- As you are filling out sections of the record book, think about how it could be made better/easier.



If you have questions about the website itself, they have a great help section. If you have questions about the pilot process or the content required, contact Jennifer.



Do you have an idea that could help your community during this COVID crisis? If so, this is your chance to make your idea a reality.

5 finalists will be selected to pitch their idea to a panel of experts including Maker and rapid prototyping experts on May 30. We will provide one person or team \$1,000 in resources and guidance to aid in the creation of your idea. There is also a chance to share your idea nationally. For full information, visit: [go.illinois.edu/covididea](http://go.illinois.edu/covididea).

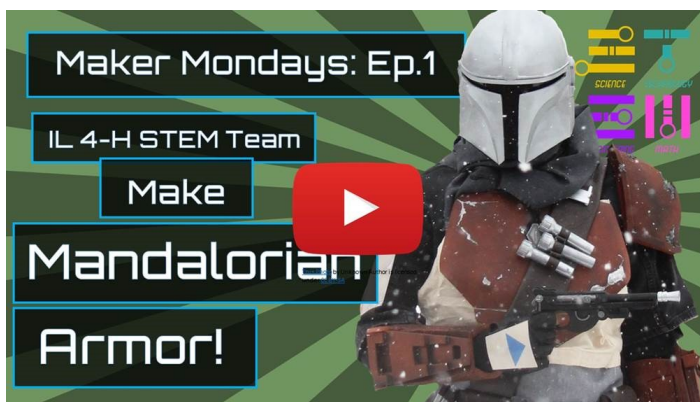
### AWARDS

State award applications aren't due until November, but now is a great time to start looking at the requirements, especially for experience awards.

There are many new awards this year, and they all have \$1,000 scholarships tied to them. These new awards are taking the place of the old State 4-H Awards.

The Experience awards still exist. These awards are open to all ages. Take a look at the application and see what level you meet. If you start marking these applications now, it will be much easier to get questions answered closer to the deadline.

All award applications and descriptions can be found on the Illinois State 4-H page here: <https://4h.extension.illinois.edu/members/awards>



The state technology team is doing a STEM series called Maker Mondays. These sessions are geared to youth age 13+. These trainings will cover using 3-D printers, drones and other digital devices. The first session covers making Mandalorian Armor using tools and a 3-D printer. You can view the lesson here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P7hhXcL-6fQ&feature=youtu.be>



**HENRY, MERCER, ROCK ISLAND, & STARK UNIT**  
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web: [extension.illinois.edu/hmrs/](http://extension.illinois.edu/hmrs/)

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Milan, IL 61264  
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**Henry/Stark Office**  
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Galva, IL 61434  
Phone: 309-932-3447; FAX 309-932-3454

**Mercer County Office**  
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Viola, IL 61486  
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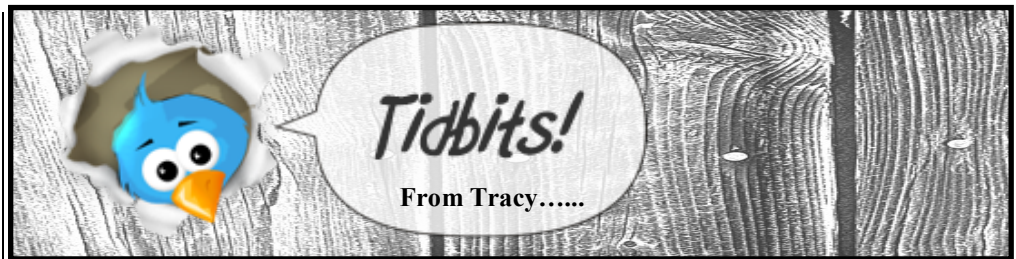
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**Office Hours**  
**Tuesday & Thursday**  
**8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.**  
closed for lunch 12 – 12:30 p.m.



## Greeting!

We are living in a world where things change minute-by-minute and our “normal” no longer exists. It stinks. We know it stinks. It is very hard to operate amid all this uncertainty.

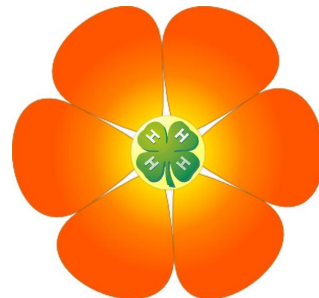
Luckily, those of us in the 4-H world are experienced in rolling with the punches and making it up as we go along. Rest assured that we are working very hard to make something positive out of this situation.

If we get to have a fair in-person, we will be ready to celebrate. If we cannot meet in person this year, we will find new, inventive ways to showcase the 4-H projects that youth work so hard on through the year.

Our first priority will always be protecting the health of our members, families and volunteers.

Stay safe, check your email often, and know we will get through this somehow.

*Warmest regards,  
Tracy & Jennifer*



*Find us on Facebook:*  
<https://www.facebook.com/RockIslandCounty4H>  
<https://www.facebook.com/4HMercerCounty>  
*Find us on Twitter:*  
[https://twitter.com/HMRS\\_Counties4H](https://twitter.com/HMRS_Counties4H)  
*HMRS Counties 4-H*

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State · County · Local Groups · United States Department of Agriculture Cooperating  
University of Illinois provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.

Programs and activities sponsored by University of Illinois Extension are open to anyone. If a special accommodation must be addressed in order for any individual to participate, please contact Jenny Garner at 309-756-9978 in advance of the event.

# We are proud to honor our Mercer County 4-H Class of 2020!



We've reached out to our 4-H Seniors to have them submit stories about their future plans and the impact 4-H has had on their lives. We're happy to share their stories. Congratulations and best wishes on your future endeavors!  
#4Hgrown

## Dylan Cheline



- **Member of the Alexis All Stars 4-H Club.**
- **Plans to attend Lake Land College as an Ag Transfer Student**
- **Recipient of a \$500 Patti Jeanne Higgins Scholarship and a \$250 Mercer County 4-H Memorial Scholarship**

4-H has made my interest in agriculture grow throughout my years of participation. My favorite 4-H memory was winning the market steer show at the Mercer County Fair, because all of my hard work for that summer paid off.

I like being able to look back and see my own progression throughout 4-H. In 10 years I see myself back on my family farm expanding our cattle operation. My favorite 4-H project was definitely showing cattle. It has taught me a lot of lessons and is now a passion of mine.

## Barbara Close



- **Member of the Hamlet Handy Helpers 4-H Club.**
- **Plans to attend University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign to major in Agriculture and Consumer Economics**
- **2019 Recipient of the Marvin Kottman Award**
- **Recipient of a \$500 Mercer County 4-H Memorial Scholarship**

Being a member of 4-H has been a great experience and has reinforced my desire to get involved in the agricultural business. My favorite 4-H memory is when my brother and I both advanced to State competition the same year with our crop projects, and my family went to the State Fair. It was a fun experience!

I have enjoyed receiving several awards and recognition during my years in 4-H, and my biggest honor was getting the Marvin Kottman Award last year. A degree in agribusiness will benefit me in many ways and provide more opportunities in my life. I realize that college will be challenging, but I am looking forward to it and am excited about my future.

## Sheridan Hank



- **Member of the Kimel 4-H Club.**
- **Plans to attend Lake Land College as a member of the Livestock Judging Team and then Iowa State University to study Ag Business.**
- **Recipient of a \$250 Mercer County 4-H Memorial Scholarship**
- **Recipient of the Emanuel Johnson Memorial Award for Outstanding 4-H Leadership**
- **Leadership, Citizenship, Professionalism Award from Illinois 4-H.**

My favorite 4-H memory will always be showing at the Illinois State Fair and seeing 4-H friends from across the state. My funniest 4-H memory is during my first year exhibiting at the State Fair. My heifer, Bella, and I won our showmanship division. When we came out of the ring I was getting high-fives from the older kids; I was riding pretty high! Until my Mom whispered to me to zip up my zipper before we headed to the backdrop for pictures. That was a good reminder for me all of the years after until when, just two years ago, I realized I had shown three heifers a total of six times in one day with my sweater on backward.

My biggest 4-H accomplishment has been utilizing my Club leadership roles as an opportunity to help my community. I am proud to have accumulated 690 hours of volunteer service during my high school career and to have served as 4-H Club President for 2 years and an Illinois 4-J Junior Leader. My favorite 4-H projects have been my Angus heifers. My favorite win was showing Rebel at the Division Championship in the Angus Show at the Illinois Beef Expo and with Maxine in 2019 and winning the Mercer County Fair 4-H Show which qualified us for the first-ever Western Illinois Throwdown Show. My ultimate goal is to open my own rural, agriculture-focused law office here in Mercer County.



# Mercer County 4-H Class of 2020 Senior Salute Continued



## Eliza Lilliman



- **Member of the Country Kids 4-H Club**
- **Plans to attend Lake Land College and transfer to Oklahoma State University, majoring in Agriculture Business and Finance.**
- **Recipient of scholarships from The National Wild Turkey Federation**
- **Compeer Financial Enriching Agriculture Scholarship**
- **Top recipient of the Rockridge FFA Alumni Scholarship**

4-H definitely influenced my decision to attend a college that has a leading agriculture program! Some of my best friends were introduced to me through 4-H! Mercer County has an amazing group of 4-H kids. Over the years we have had a blast spending time together showing livestock at the Mercer County and Illinois State Fair. Our friendships go far beyond 4-H, but it was the common interest we shared in 4-H that brought many of us together.

A major accomplishment I achieved in high school was being elected Illinois Association FFA Section 4 President. This never would have been possible without the leadership qualities I have attained through 4-H! The first officer position I ever held was in 4-H, leading to my serving as our club president for 3 years. 4-H has provided me with the knowledge and confidence needed to be an effective and respected leader. In ten years I hope to have completed my college education and be working in agriculture finance. I also hope to have a farm of my own, and continue the tradition of farming and agriculture in my family.

## Evan Wynne



- **Member of the Alexis All Stars 4-H Club.**
- **Plans to attend Oklahoma State University to major in Animal Science**
- **Recipient of a \$500 Patti Jeanne Higgins Scholarship**
- **Recipient of a \$250 Mercer County 4-H Memorial Scholarship**

My favorite 4-H memory is the water fight we had at Mercer County Fair. Even the parents got involved. My biggest accomplishment in 4-H has been when younger kids have asked for my help with their pigs. It makes me feel good when younger kids ask me for advice.

In 10 years, I plan to have my degree in animal science. I hope to be designing animal facilities that are efficient for the producers as well as better for the animals. I also plan to raise show pigs.

My favorite 4-H project was showing my pigs. I am proud of how far I have come with my knowledge of this industry.