



Deadlines:

May 1 Horse Papers

June 20 State Horse Entries

Events:

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



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Tracy, Mercer County Program Coordinator extraordinaire, works hard to ensure the youth get the best possible 4-H experience. Despite how it seems at times, 4-H is not her entire life. While we all have some extra time, we thought we would show you that Tracy has many talents besides answering email and dealing with 4-H paperwork.

Family: She and her husband, Kevin, together have four adult children and 10 grandchildren. At home, they have fur babies - dogs Cam and Rosie.

Music that gets her through: Tracy loves music. Her dad was a drummer in a rock band for years. Her current go-to is country music and it is always playing in the background at her house to lift her spirits. Right now, selections include Carrie Underwood, Keith Urban and Blake Shelton.

Binge-worth: We are in a prime binge-watching time right now. Her favorites are Grace and Frankie and Dead to Me. Both on Netflix.

Hobbies: When not working, she enjoys fishing and gardening. She lives on a hobby farm where they raise catfish and grow veggies. She also has lots of flowers, as evidenced by the photos. She has an enviable green thumb!

All about Food: She loves food like she loves music. She has to do something with all those veggies, so new recipes are always being concocted. She plans to share those with all of you in the near future.

4-H: Ok, we can never get too far from 4-H. It is always lurking in the background of our lives. Tracy truly enjoys

getting to witness youth build skills that help them become successful adults and being a small part of their growth. If she could recommend any projects it would be those dealing with technology: computer programming, robotics, and 3-D Printing. Those projects align with the state of the world and the job market!

Next time you talk to Tracy, thank her for bringing so much color to the landscape and to the 4-H program!



FAQ/What Does This Mean For....

Fair Entry



At this time, the opening of faireentry.com for fair entries is on hold. When we know more about the plan for summer programs and fairs, we will update you. Know that we will offer some kind of exhibit opportunity - even if it has to be virtual.

Dog Obedience



Due to the no in-person events rule, dog obedience is moving online. If you are enrolled in dogs and plan to show at the county fair or just want to work on obedience, register for the classes at <https://web.extension.illinois.edu/registration/?RegistrationID=22112> Registration closes on April 6 at which time you will be sent a link to a private Facebook group for your county. Instructors will be posting videos and instructions for techniques to work on with your dog each week.

Horses



- *Regional horse bowl contests are cancelled as of this moment. The information surrounding those contests is constantly changing.
- ***The State Junior Horse Show entry deadline has been extended from June 1 to June 20.**
- *We will be lenient on the traditional May 1 deadline for horse ownership/lease/registration papers and pictures.

Public Presentations



All county public presentation contests are on hold for now. The deadline to submit state fair delegates was pushed to August 1. When we know more about the status of summer programs and fairs, we will update you on these contests.

Project Manuals



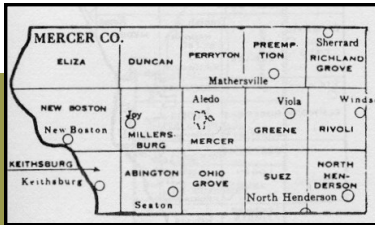
The campus warehouse is closed and we are not allowed in our offices at this time. We have no way of getting you project manuals. If you want to work on projects and find you need a manual, you can find many of them at the National 4-H Mall (shop4-h.org). Some project curriculum is also available as an online download. Look up your project on the State 4-H website (4h.extension.illinois.edu) to see all the resources available. Exhibit requirements are posted on our website at extension.illinois.edu/hmrs.

Livestock



All Premiere tattooing and weighing is postponed.

- As of March 30, sheep & goat nominations are due by May 15. Forms will be available on our website and emailed out to everyone enrolled in sheep & goats. Remember that these forms require a picture of the scrapie tag in the ear.
- As of March 30, YQCA is still a requirement. See pg. 2 for updates.
- *As with everything, this is subject to change.



NEWS & notes

Mercer

Kimel 4-H Minutes Submitted by Macy DeBlock

The Kimel 4-H meeting was held on February 9, 2020 in the basement of the Aledo Presbyterian Church. The meeting was called to order at 5:32 by Jack Jungmann. We discussed many things including the soup cook off, which is March 14 at the Aledo Fire Station. Another thing we talked about was this coming Mercer County Fair, which is July 7-11. On February 28, the club will be having a lock-in until 12 o'clock starting at the YMCA and ending at the church for food and games. There were a few talks and demonstrations toward the end of the meeting, which was closed by Jack Jungmann.

On March 8, the Kimel 4-H Club held their monthly meeting, which was called to order by Kaitlynn DeBlock followed by pledges. We talked about many important things including the soup cook off and the Mercer County Memorial Scholarship due March 15. Another big topic was the annual Mercer County Fair on July 7-11 with the horse show on July 19. The 4-H BBQ is going to be June 12 at Mercer Market. There were many talks and demonstrations. Many were about dogs with Sheridan Hank bringing her Australian Shepherd puppies.

Mercer County Federation Report Submitted by Ayla Coulter

Federation met on March 9. We discussed the soup cook off on the 14. We also came up with fundraising ideas and talked about community service.



The 4-H Pledge challenge begins this week. Each week, we will be issuing a challenge related to one of the 4 H's - Head, Heart, Hands & Health plus an ending bonus. Those challenges will be posted to our 4-H Facebook pages and Instagram.

- See the first video, up now, for full instructions.
- If you post to Facebook use #virtual4Hchallenge.
- All submissions must include a photo or video, the name of the member(s) and which "H" they are completing.
- There will be prizes for those who fulfill all 5 challenges. Plus, each week the most creative response will be entered into a grand prize drawing.

Hamlet Hand Helpers Submitted by Megan Gray

The Hamlet Handy Helpers 4-H Club held their meeting on March 8, 2020 at the Hamlet Hall. The meeting was called to order, pledges were given, and roll call was taken. The secretary's and treasurer's report was given and approved. Under old business, members of our club met at Brookstone in Aledo to distribute the Valentine's Day cards and candy. The spring craft day scheduled for April 19 has been postponed. Under new business, all members were asked to confirm their project enrollments with one of our leaders. The club voted to donate a monetary amount to the Mercer County 4-H Fair for awards. The soup cook-off is March 14 from 5-7 p.m. Don't forget to sign up for either Quality Assurance and Ethics or Youth for the Quality Care of Animals online. Make sure all members read the newsletter for important dates and information. Muireann Zippe gave a talk about her visual arts project that would be considered an abstract using clay. Ryley Zippe gave a presentation on management practices used in a beef operation. The meeting was adjourned.



Sherrard 4-H Report

After discussion in October about the lack of Barn Owl nesting habitat the club decided we should build them. Below is a picture of the final product. Each member built one to take home, and we had 3 extra to donate to concerned citizens. In December, we had our Christmas party, made ornaments and Sidney and Liam gave presentations.

In February, we did paper mache. Members took home their creations to dry and paint.





NEWS & notes

Around the State



It is time again to nominate someone who has impacted the 4-H program in Mercer County for the IL 4-H Hall of Fame. Nominations are due by April 30 via email to Jennifer. The induction ceremony will be August 18 in Springfield.

Upcoming State Dates:

2020 State Shoot Schedule

Archery - Sept. 19, 2020 at Pekin Archers Club

Shotgun - Sept. 26 at Brittany Shooting Park in Bunker Hill, IL

Rifle/Pistol - Oct. 10 and 11 at CIPS in Bloomington, IL

Registration information will be coming later in the year.



CONGRATULATIONS!



Congrats to everyone who competed in the State Horse Judging contest in February at Black Hawk East. Desiree Reid, of Mercer County, placed first in the Reasons

Division. Breeanna Olson, of Henry County, placed 5th.

In the Non-Reasons division, Megan DeLille, of Henry County, placed 8th overall.



Our 4 county unit will be doing a health BINGO challenge during the month of April. Each week a BINGO card will be put up on our Facebook pages. This is open to all - not just youth - and it involves all types of health tasks.

Get a BINGO for that week and entered to win a prize.

YQCA Updates

YQCA is offering a 25% discount for the month of April for the online training. All in-person trainings are cancelled due to our restriction on in-person meetings through May 31.

As of now, it is still required that youth exhibiting in beef, dairy, goats, sheep and/or swine complete YQCA.

If you still need to fulfill the requirement, you will have to take the training online at yqca.org.

Here are a few instructions:

- Use the 4-H Online option to log-in.
- If you want to pay online using a credit card, you have to pay the full \$12. The 25% discount cannot be applied through the online payment method.
- If you want the discount, follow the instructions sent in an email from Jennifer. Those instructions include a coupon form that you must mail in along with a check for \$9.
- You can still test out of age ranges, but that also requires paying the full \$12/year fee.
- At this time, we don't anticipate rescheduling any in-person trainings for this 4-H year.
- The deadline to complete this training is still **June 1**. If that changes, we will let you know.



All of the 4-H staff would like to give a big shout-out to our leaders in honor of National Volunteer Week. The 4-H program only exists because of your dedication and gifts of time and talent.

The work you do with the youth is extraordinary and appreciated. We wish we could thank you in person!

HENRY, MERCER, ROCK ISLAND, & STARK UNIT
email: uie-hmrs@illinois.edu
web: extension.illinois.edu/hmrs/

Rock Island County Office
321 W 2nd Ave
Milan, IL 61264
Phone: 309-756-9978; FAX: 309-756-9987

Henry/Stark Office
358 Front Street
Galva, IL 61434
Phone: 309-932-3447; FAX 309-932-3454

Mercer County Office
910 13th Street
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Office Hours
Tuesday & Thursday
8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
closed for lunch 12 – 12:30 p.m.



Greeting!

Hello from our first couple weeks working from home. We hope you are all safe and healthy!

This has been a big adjustment for all of us. 4-H is all about community - learning in a hands-on manner, helping others, supporting each other. We have always taken that spirit of physical togetherness for granted. Now, we must find ways to maintain that togetherness without the physical gathering.

We are working on ways to stay connected with all of you and turning the 4-H program virtual. This is an evolving process happening at both the state and local levels. We are counting on all of you to help us by continuing to participate and interact with these new initiatives.

Right now, everything is a moving target. We will pass along updates about fairs, summer programs, deadline changes, etc. as we get them. Please be patient with the number of emails you are likely to receive, and contact us with any questions. We are still available during normal work hours, though email is now the best way to reach us.

We are thinking of all of you and anxiously awaiting the day we can all be face-to-face again.



*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
HMRS Counties 4-H

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.