



Deadlines:

May 1 Project Enrollments

May 1 Horse Papers

June 1 Fair Entries

Events:

March 7 - YQCA Training

March 14 - Soup Cook-off

March 28 - Public Speaking

April 2 - RI Pork Chop Dinner

April 4 - Regional Horse Bowl

April 6 - Mercer Dog Obedience

April 25 - National Day of Service

June 12 - Mercer BBQ



State Award Winners

Congratulations to Sheridan Hank and Mariah Conaway from Mercer County. Both girls were selected as winners of state level awards. Sheridan is the recipient of the LCP award, which is sponsored by Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois 4-H Foundation. It recognizes leadership, citizenship & professionalism.



Mariah is the recipient of a State 4-H Award in the Leadership category. This recognizes excellence in the development of leadership skills on behalf of 4-H. As part of her recognition, she gets to select between a scholarship or a trip to National 4-H Congress.

Both girls will be honored at the State Awards Banquet on March 14 in Champaign.



Enrollment Notes

*ALL enrollments must be in 4-H Online and the \$20 program fee paid by **March 1** to exhibit at the fair.

*Changes may be made to project enrollments until **May 1**.

*You must be enrolled in a project to exhibit it at the fair.

*Fair entry will open in April and close June 1

Soup Cook-Off



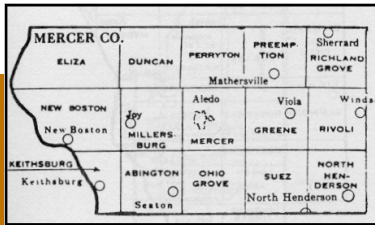
Join Mercer County 4-H for their annual Soup Cook-off on **Saturday, March 14** at the Aledo Fire Station. It is free to eat, but in-kind donations will go to American Legion for the Veteran's Marker Project. Service begins at 4 p.m.

The Rock Island Foundation's pork chop dinner is **April 2** at the Milan American Legion from 4-7 p.m. There will be a pie auction in addition to the meal.



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NEWS & notes

Mercer

Alexis All-Stars Report Submitted by Tyler Barrington

The Alexis All-Stars met on February 16, 2020, for our regularly scheduled meeting at 6 o'clock PM at the Alexis Community Center. There were fourteen members and two leaders present. Dylan Cheline gave the treasurer's report. We currently have \$386.97 in our balance. In old business, we discussed the beef weigh in. We also discussed the Soup Cook Off. We need members to help set up and bring crackers. We also read and approved what projects the members are taking. 4-H manuals were handed out. In new business, Tyler Barrington gave the Federation report. Members enrolled in beef, swine, sheep, goats, and dairy cattle need to do an ethics training online or at a class in Aledo. Scholarship opportunities were also presented. The members discussed setting up an activity at the Alexis Sesquicentennial celebration. Some ideas presented include a cake walk or an obstacle course. Our next meeting will be March 15, 2020, at 6 o'clock PM at the Alexis Community Center. Gregorys and Shikes are to provide refreshments for the next meeting. Davin, Rachel, and Reagan Shike are giving talks at the next meeting. After adjourning we tied blankets for our community service project.

Mercer County Federation Report Submitted by Ayla Coulter

On February 6th federation met and we discussed the soup cook off on March 14 from 5 to 7, nesting boxes where we will put them at Pope Creek, as well as fair awards. We also discussed our community service project for the spring. Which will be river clean up.

Soup Cook-off Note: Drop off soup at the Aledo Fire Station between 3 & 3:30. **Soup must be hot and ready to serve.** If you need alternate arrangements, call the office by **March 12.** Members wishing to help serve should arrive by 3:30.

Dog Obedience



Mercer County dog obedience will hold their first meeting on Monday, April 6 at 6 p.m. The meeting will be at the Mercer County fairgrounds. Anyone interested in participating should attend. Do NOT bring your dog. This meeting is to fill out paperwork and go over training techniques.

Hamlet Hand Helpers Submitted by Megan Gray

The Hamlet Handy Helpers 4-H Club held their meeting on February 9, 2020 at the Hamlet Presbyterian Church at 5:00 pm. There were 10 members present. Pledges were led by Mason Gray and the Secretary and Treasurer report were given. A check was written out to the Mercer County Food Pantry for a winter donation to help families within the community, which was approved at our November meeting. Our annual 4-H tour was discussed and it was approved to attend the River Bend Food Pantry in June, due to school schedules. Valentine's Day cards were signed for the Brookstone of Aledo residents and will be delivered the week of Valentine's Day by our members. It was approved by the members to put together the Easter Baskets in conjunction with the Mercer County Farm Bureau if the other organizations decide to do the project again this year. Leaders reminded all about the upcoming deadlines for project enrollment, changes in projects, and to start looking at fair entries in April. Also, members need to make sure they know the ownership dates for livestock exhibitors. For the soup cook off, the Monson family has volunteered to donate the soup for our club. This year the soup cook off proceeds will go to the Veteran's Marker Project. June 12th is the County BBQ. Finally, April 19-25 is National Volunteer Week. Our club will be volunteering our time in our community in order to celebrate. The meeting was adjourned.



Saddle Teens Minutes Submitted by Rylee Ortberg

On January 6th 2020 Lori Matkovic, Kendra Matkovic, Mariah Conaway, Rylee Ortberg, Samuel Ortberg, and Jerica Ortberg all went to Joann Fabrics in Moline Illinois, to pick out fabric for tie blankets for the residents at the local nursing home. While everyone was at Joann Fabrics, the workers were so great to us. They let us use their cutting table to lay out all our fabric and prepare the fabric to take back to be presented to the rest of our group.

Mariah, Kendra, Samuel, and Rylee were all sent home with blankets to cut strips in the fabric to be all set for the group to tie.

On January 9th, 2020 Saddle Teens met at the Viola Community Center. The Saddle Teens members finished cutting the fabric for all the blankets to be assembled.



NEWS & notes

Rock Island & Mercer

Bert Blood Scholarships



The Rock Island County 4-H Foundation and the Rock Island Rotary Club are co-sponsoring college/trade school scholarships for Rock Island 4-H members and recent graduates.

Eligibility - Current Rock Island 4-H members are eligible to apply for one of three scholarships awarded in the amounts of \$1,500, \$1,250 and \$1,000. Rock Island 4-H alumni who will be enrolled in college or trade school and have at least a 3.0 grade point average can apply for two \$500 scholarships.

Due Date - Applications and reference forms are due to the Rock Island Extension Office, 321 W 2nd Ave Milan, IL 61264, by **Friday, March 20.**

Fillable pdf applications can be found:
<https://extension.illinois.edu/hmrs/4-h-rock-island-county>

Note - The top high school finalists will be asked to prepare a five-minute presentation about their project to be given at the Rotary Club lunch meeting on Tuesday, April 7 at the QC Botanical Center from 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

For questions, please contact the Rock Island Extension office or Tracy Fowler-Pestle at (309) 871-5032.



Mercer County Scholarships

4-H Memorial Scholarship:

This was established with memorial funds from Dylis

McCutchan and Daniel McLaughlin. Dylis was a leader of Hamlet Handy Helpers for over 40 years. Daniel was a Mercer 4-H alum and a long-time member of the Young Riders Club. Both of these individuals knew first-hand the value and impact that 4-H can have on youth. The scholarship funds continue to grow as more people donate in memory of loved ones. The memorial scholarship is open to current Mercer County 4-H members graduating from High School or in their final year of 4-H. It is intended those entering or currently attending a college, university or trade school. For the application and full details visit, extension.illinois.edu/hmrs/4-h-mercercounty. Deadline to apply is **March 15, 2020.**

Patti Jeanne Higgins Scholarship:

This scholarship is for one year, available to high school seniors or persons enrolled in their first year of college, university, technical, or vocational school. Two \$500 scholarships will be awarded. Applicant must be a resident of Mercer or Warren County and actively involved in 4-H for a minimum of three years. Preference will be given to applicants who are or were a member of the Alexis All-Star 4-H Club. Applicant is required to verify acceptance to or present enrollment at their school prior to receiving the money.

Applicant shall be required to submit a written application. In addition to eligibility guidelines, the following will be considered in selecting recipients: academic performance and honors, rank in class, ACT score, financial need, character and personality. Consideration shall be given to maturity, industriousness and motivation, intellectual interest, moral character, and demonstrated leadership.

Completed applications are due on or before 4:30 p.m. on **March 15, 2020.** Applications can be found at: Extension.illinois.edu/hmrs/4-h-mercercounty

Mercer Swine Changes

- Ownership date moved to **May 1** for both barrows & gilts
- Exhibitors limited to 4 barrows, 4 gilts, 1 pair of barrows and 1 pair of gilts
- A single purebred class added to both barrows and gilts. All breeds will show together.
- For questions please contact Jim Mayhew.



Mercer Horse Exhibitors

The county horse show will be held on **Sunday, July 19** at 4K Arena in Viola. Show starts at 9. This is a change from our usual Saturday shows.



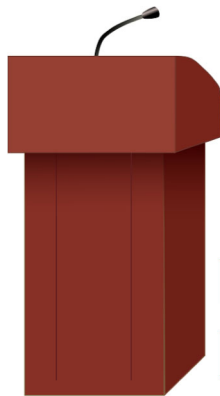


NEWS & notes

Around the State

Public Speaking

The 2020 public speaking contest is scheduled for Saturday, March 28 at the United Methodist Church in Preemption, IL. 2652 170th Ave. It will begin at 1 p.m. This contest will be for those enrolled in the public speaking project who would like the opportunity to advance to the State competition. It is open to youth in both Mercer and Rock Island.



This year's State competition will be held during the regular general project's day, which is Friday, August 11 for us. The contest will not be held in the Orr Building to help with the noise issue.

Contest categories are:

- * Formal Speech
- * Illustrated Speech
- * Original Works
- * Oral Interpretation.
- * 4-H Pledge Speaking (not eligible for state fair)

To register for the county contest, visit extension.illinois.edu/hmrs/events



4-H Fish Camp is back at the 4-H Memorial Camp near Monticello. Fishing begins at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 2 and lasts until 2 p.m. on Sunday, May 3. During those two days, you'll learn a lot about fishing. A \$50 fee covers the program, lodging, boat, bait and 3 meals. You'll also have fresh fillets to take home!

Participants will stay in the cabins at Memorial Camp and will need to bring their own bedding & toiletries. The lake is stocked with largemouth bass, crappie, bluegill and channel catfish.

To register, contact the camp at (217) 762-2741 or email Curt Sinclair at sinclair@illinois.edu.

SFI4-H Speaking for Illinois 4-H



The next Speaking for Illinois 4-H training will be held on **March 21** in Sterling, IL. The

training will take place in the Whiteside County Extension Office. Cost to attend is \$12.

Once you go through the training, you will be eligible to attend the Legislative Connection events in Springfield. It is a great state level leadership opportunity! Registration opens in January at go.illinois.edu/sfi4H.



Be a true leader in service

Join 4-H members and clubs across Illinois and the nation on Saturday, April 25 as part of the True Leaders in Service. The month of April is always designated as service month and April 25 is the National Day of Service.

Start thinking of possible community service activities now. If you need inspiration, find resources at go.illinois.edu/4Hdayofservice. Closer to the date, you will be able to register your project.

YQCA

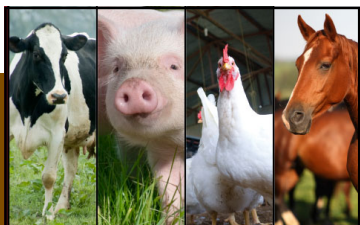
in-person trainings:

1. Saturday, March 7, 3 p.m. at the Galva Extension Office.
2. Sunday, March 29, 2 p.m. at the Mercer County Farm Bureau
3. Sunday, April 5, 2 p.m. at the Milan Extension Office.

Youth are welcome to attend the training in any county. You are required to **PRE-REGISTER** and **PAY** the \$3 fee through YQCA.org. We cannot register or pay for you and we cannot accept any money. It must be paid online. Contact Jennifer with questions.

JOANN

The Joann Fabric Clover Campaign is back again this year. Donate to 4-H at your local Joann Fabric store from March 1 to April 30. They usually run special sales during this time, as well.



NEWS & notes

Livestock Edition

Upcoming Judging Contests

Western Illinois University

- Saturday, April 4, 9 a.m.
- WIU Livestock Pavilion (Wigwam Hollow & Tower Road, Macomb)
- \$5/person or \$20/team of 4
- Register at go.illinois.edu/WIU

Warren County

- Saturday, May 30, 9 a.m.
- Warren County Fairgrounds, Roseville
- \$3/person
- Register at 8 a.m. on day of contest

State Contest

- Monday, June 15, 10 a.m.
- U of I Stock Pavilion in Urbana
- \$10/senior division competitor. Juniors/free
- No more than 2 sr and 2 jr teams/county
- Information at go.illinois.edu/4Hlivestock

Ownership Dates*:

Steers - February 1, 2020 (Calved on or after January 1, 2019)
Barrows - June 1, 2020 (Farrowed on or after January 1, 2020)
Wethers & Market Ewes - May 15, 2020 (Lambled on or after January 1, 2020)

- Self-nominate between March 15 & May 15.
 - The nomination process is the same as last year
1. Get forms from Extension Office
 2. Complete form and include a picture of the lamb's ear with Scrapie tag
 3. Return the form to the Extension Office.

Meat Goat Wethers - May 15, 2020 (Born on or after October 1, 2019)

- Self-nominate between March 15 & May 15.
 - The nomination process is the same as last year
1. Get forms from Extension Office
 2. Complete form and include a picture of the ear with Scrapie tag
 3. Return the form to the Extension Office.

Premiere Animals* *

Barrows - Farrowed on or after February 10, 2020

- Owned by June 1, 2020
- Weighed and Tattooed between February 10 & April 15
- Tattooed within 35 days of birth, no more than 1lb/day

Wether & Ewe Lambs - Lambled on or after January 1, 2020

- Ownership/Nomination deadline is **March 15 - May 15**
- Weighed and tattooed between March 15 & May 15
- **Addition of Premiere Ewe Lambs is new for 2020**

Breeding Animals

Beef Heifers - June 1, 2020

Gilts - June 1, 2020

Ewes & Rams - June 25, 2020

Cows and Heifers - Cows Jan. 1, 2020/Heifers June 1, 2020

Dairy Goats - Milking Does by Jan. 1, 2020/Kids & Yearlings by June 1, 2020

Meat Goats - May 15, 2020

Horse - Ownership/Lease/Registration papers are due to the County Office by **May 1**. State fair papers are due to **Donna Miller** at the Illinois State Fair Office by **June 1**. Remember that two color photos must accompany the paperwork.

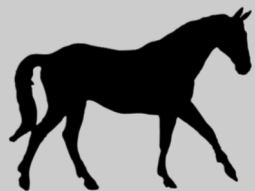
All other livestock State Fair entries are due **July 1**.

***County ownership dates can differ from State Fair dates.**

Check your fair book for county dates.

****If you plan to exhibit a Premiere animal, contact Jennifer to set up a tattoo/weigh-in time.**

Upcoming Horse Dates



Regional Horse Bowl/Hippology -
 April 4 @ Knoxville High School.

* Individuals and teams must qualify at the regional contest

to move on to State contests.

State Horse Speaking Contest - Saturday, April 18 in Champaign. No pre-qualification needed. \$3 to enter and must register with Extension Office.

State Horse Show - July 26 through August 2, 2020



Summer Academies

Dates: June 21-26

The Illini Summer Academies allow you to explore one of 13 different programs. During the week, you will work alongside university professors, hang out on the campus, stay in the dorms, and meet youth from all across Illinois.

The Academies are supported by the Illinois 4-H Foundation and are open to all youth living in Illinois.

Registration opens on **March 16** and closes on **April 17**.

Scholarships are available. Apply for them before **April 1** @go.illinois.edu/illini4Hscholarship. The scholarship covers the \$260 base cost of attendance. Any additional academy cost is the responsibility of the attendee.

Space for each academy is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. Many academies reach capacity before registration closes, so don't wait to register.

For more information, visit go.illinois.edu/illini4H.



Ag Leadership & Communications - Put on by the department of Ag Leadership, Education, and Communication. Cost is TBD.

Animal Sciences - Cost is \$370

Beekeeping - Department of Entomology. Cost is TBD

Chemistry - Cost is \$280



Electrical & Computer Engineering - Cost is \$485

Game Design: Storytelling and Fabrication - Put on by the Champaign-Urbana Fab Lab. Cost is \$335



Human Development & Family Studies - Cost is \$295



Journey from Farm to Table - Put on by the Department of Food Science & Human Nutrition. Cost is \$360

Meat Judging & Evaluation - Cost is \$310

Sustainable Summer - Put on by the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences. Cost is \$310

Molecular & Cellular Biology - No repeat students from last year. Cost is \$385

Veterinary Medicine - Open to youth who have completed 10th grade. No repeat students. Cost is \$375



Work Hard, Play Hard - Put on by the College of Applied Health Sciences. Cost is \$280.



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
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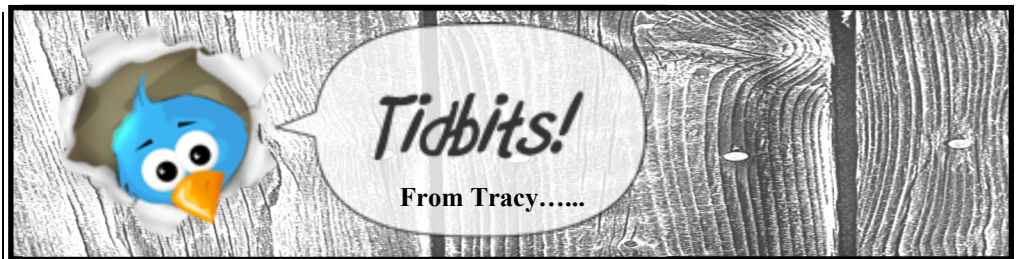
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Office Hours
Tuesday & Thursday
8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
closed for lunch 12 –12:30 p.m.



Greeting!

Spring is just around the corner--we hope!

Please make sure to sign up for projects BEFORE May 1st. You can add or change projects by going back to www.il4honline.com. After May 1st you will NOT be able to change, add, or edit projects.

In early April, members will be able to register for fair classes by logging onto fairentury.com. Members will have until June 1st to select their exhibit classes for the 4-H shows at the county fair. After June 2nd, no changes or entries will be allowed.

As always, if you have any questions, please let us know!

Happy St. Patrick's Day

*Warmest regards,
Tracy & Jennifer*



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<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.