

4-H Courier

Jo Daviess County
204 Vine,
PO Box 600

Elizabeth, IL 61028

P. (815) 858-2273

F. (815) 858-2274

go.illinois.edu/jsw

• Margaret Larson
Co. Extension
Director

• Angela Miller
Program
Coordinator
4-H Youth
Development

• Alex Burbach
Extension Program
Coordinator

• Gayle Arnold
Office Support
Associate

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"To Make the Best Better"

New 4-H Year Edition

Welcome to the new 4-H year, everyone! The theme for the 2021-2022 year is "Find Your Spark"

What are sparks? Sparks are a special quality, skill, or interest. Sparks are what kids are really passionate about, an activity that unleashes their energy and joy, and allows them to really express their personality. Sparks motivate and inspire. Each of us has at least one spark. For most of us, our spark is revealed or discovered over time through opportunities and experiences. By enrolling in 4-H, you are now apart of one of the largest youth organizations in the nation. 4-H provides opportunities and find and nurture their spark. So explore projects, spark ideas, and ignite possibilities! I encourage you to take advantage of the learning experiences, community service activities, leadership opportunities this year. This newsletter is filled with all the information you will need to have a fabulous year.



National 4-H Week 

FIND YOUR SPARK

OCTOBER 3-9, 2021

Call the Jo Daviess County Extension Office at 815-858-2273 to learn more about 4-H.

University of Illinois Extension is proud to recognize the Jo Daviess County 4-Hers and volunteers who continue to ACT, LEAD, and SERVE in our communities.

#Opportunity4All #National4HWeek #jsw4H #findyourspark



 **Illinois Extension**
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4-H Enrollment for the 2021-2022 will open September 15!

Please look through this newsletter closely to find all information regarding policy changes, important dates and deadlines, and all information you will need to begin the new year.

PROJECT INFORMATION

In with the NEW and out with the OLD- We have a few new projects this year that you should be aware of and a few projects that have been discontinued.

- ◇ **Quilting**– is a NEW project. Youth will learn basic quilting and piecing techniques; selecting fabrics, quilting equipment, options for finishing quilts, tie quilts, bindings, machine quilting, and exploring patterns and the history associated with quilting. There is a manual also available.
- ◇ **Cover Crop**– is a NEW project. Youth will learn to investigate new planting processes, explore genetic modification, and develop new products to learn how cover crops can benefit ag and the environment. A manual is available.
- ◇ **Woodworking 4**– this is still a project that member may choose in 4-H Online for the 2021-2022 year, unfortunately, it was accidentally left out of the IL 4-H Project Guide.

MANUALS: Ordering 4-H manuals has become increasing difficult for county 4-H staff all over the state. With the mix of digital downloads and hardback copies of manuals, the fact that IL 4-H no longer has a publication warehouse, and the 4-H Online platform taking away the option to request manuals directly from their site... Frustration has been at an all time high in regards to requesting manuals.

We are still trying to work out the best direction to take....moving forward.

More information to come.

WHAT IS NEW?

The Illinois 4-H Project guide is available to all 4-H families. Your leader will be given copies for their club families at the leader meeting that is scheduled for the end of September.

4-H RE-ENROLLMENT - Enrollment for the 2021-2022 4-H YEAR opened on September 15. All members AND volunteers who were in 4-H this past year, will need to log into 4-H Online and re-enroll for this new year. The link to 4-H Online is: <https://v2.4honline.com/#/user/sign-in>.

1. **Do not create a new profile.** If you have trouble logging in or requesting a new temporary password– please email me for help.
2. Projects that you were enrolled in last year will not carry over.
3. You will have until **February 1** to add/drop projects.
4. **DO NOT PAY FOR YOUR 4-H PROGRAM FEE THROUGH THE ONLINE SYSTEM.** **CLICK THE CHECK/CASH OPTION** before submitting. Jo Daviess County 4-Hers are extremely fortunate to have their enrollment fee paid for by a cooperation between Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau, Jo Daviess County Extension Foundation, and your 4-H Club. We are very appreciative of their continued support.
5. Cloverbuds– be sure to pick the correct **CLOVERBUD CLUB**.
6. **If you have a new email address– do NOT forget to update that in 4-H Online in BOTH PLACES. Please change it on the family profile and then in the email location for EACH OF YOUR 4-HERS on their individual enrollment areas.**
7. All **NEW** youth must enroll in 4-H by **February 1** to be eligible to participate at the 4-H Fair.
8. If anyone needs directions in order to enroll or re-enroll, you can find these on our website. Visit <https://extension.illinois.edu/jsw/4-h-jo-daviess-county>

Lifetime Liability Waivers- All 4-H youth members are **REQUIRED** to sign and return the lifetime liability waiver in order to participate in **ANY** 4-H activity. This includes club meetings, activities, etc. You **CANNOT** wait to turn in this form until ski day, fair, camp, etc. For liability reasons, I **MUST** have these in my hand by **December 15**. Leaders will be instructed to not allow participation for anyone missing this form. Remember if you have already turned in the lifetime liability waiver– you do NOT need to complete another one. If however, you turned in the old form last year– you will need to complete the Lifetime Liability Waiver this year and then will not have fill one out again.

All screened adults are required to fill out the lifetime liability waiver if they have not done so. Again you will only need to fill this out once.

ENROLLMENTS NOT APPROVED- It is important that you read your emails.

Please do not assume that once you submit your enrollment that everything is good to go. Take just a few moments to make sure I did not leave any comments and that your enrollment was approved.

If I did send the enrollment back, please read those comments I made, make the necessary changes, then **RESUBMIT** your enrollment. You will be considered inactive or incomplete until the enrollment has been resubmitted **AND** approved.

MEDICAL RELEASES- Once again the collection of medical release forms will only be required for activities when a youth is away from parents in an overnight capacity **OR** if they are involved in medium to high risk activities such as livestock shows, skiing, etc..

Here is the rule of thumb....medical forms are **NOT** collected for participation in: regular 4-H club meetings, 4-H workshops, 4-H general projects at fair, or other short term activities. Medical forms **ARE** collected to participate in: Field trips involving transportation without a parent/guardian, overnight activities, and livestock shows. **A new medical form will be required for each of those activities.**

Parents: please communicate with your club leaders if your child has any allergies or conditions you feel the Leaders should know about to participate in activities safely.

EMAIL ADDRESSES- Emailing is the primary mode of communication that the Extension Office uses to alert you of important information. I do not want anyone to miss something because the correct email address has not been provided. An email address is required to enroll using the new **4-H Online** system. Please list the email address that you use the most. Once you have been set up in **4-H Online** it is easy for you to log in and edit, add or update any information including emails, address, phone numbers, etc. at anytime throughout the year.

Please write your login information and password down. I am asked all the time what projects kids are enrolled in because families have forgotten. Although, I am happy to answer those questions, I cannot always do so in a timely manner. It is simple to login in to 4-H Online and look at your family's profile yourself to find that information... and more!

WHAT IS HAPPENING WITH CLOVERBUDS? Enrollment for cloverbuds just got easier. Please follow these steps when enrolling.

Step 1. Log on to 4-H Online using your current username and password. If you are a new family, please follow the enrollment instructions first.

Step 2. You will need to add the club you are wishing to join. You must choose the correct **CLOVERBUD CLUB**.

Step 3. Each member will have to pick a project. For Cloverbuds simply click "Cloverbud Project" in the project selection area.

Step 4. Fill out the Cloverbud project selection sheet (found online) and included in this newsletter and return it to the Extension Office. This form is the only way to receive project manuals. This form **MUST** be turned in to be considered active. This is part of the enrollment process and all deadlines apply!

-All manuals will be provided by the Extension Office free of charge.

-Cloverbuds must complete AND return the Lifetime Liability Waiver (if you do not have this on file) AND the Project Selection Form to the Extension Office by the deadline.

BE A PART OF 4-H FEDERATION-Jo Daviess County 4-H Federation is a youth leadership group with members that represent all clubs in the county. Members range from 10-18 year olds and meets once a month. Members gain skills in public speaking, organizing and implementing county wide activities, organizing fundraisers with the proceeds benefitting ALL Jo Daviess County 4-Hers. They plan community service projects and they have FUN. 4-H Federation provides youth another opportunity to expand their 4-H experience and gain the skills they will need to exceed later in life, all while meeting other 4-H members throughout the county. Call Angela if you would like more information!

Please remember, you do **NOT** have to be a Federation member to participate in Federation sponsored events such as the 4-H Ski Day, 4-H Swim Party, 4-H Bowling, etc. All 4-H members and their family members are invited to attend any of these events!

The next 4-H Federation Meeting will be held on Monday, September 27 at the Elizabeth Community Building and will begin at 7:30 pm. You do not have to serve as a club delegate to be a part of Federation. If you are interested, please join us for this meeting!

ACHIEVEMENT BANQUET– The Achievement Banquet and Leader Recognition event will be held on **Sunday, November 7** at the Elizabeth Community Building. Details will be announced at a later date.

I am requesting **EVERYONE** planning to attend, to RSVP so I can get an accurate head count for lunch. We continue to grow in attendance and I do not want to run out of food (or desserts!) **RSVPs are due by October 24**. You may call or email me or the Extension Office with the number of people you will be bringing.

Leaders– I need the club report which includes the list of members who met the achievement Levels 1-3 requirements for 2020-2021 by **October 15** at the latest. I will need to order specific items from a variety of places and need time to do this!!!! ***NO EXECPTIONS***

Member who are 1st , 5th, 10th, 11th year members, leaders, who submit county record books, I Dare You Awards, the Top 4-Hers awards and all fair choice award winners will be recognized at the banquet.

OTHER DEADLINES– The following will have an **October 15** deadline as well.

- **“Friend of 4-H” Award nominations:** If you know of an individual or business that you would like to see recognized for their contribution to the 4-H program, please nominate them by filling out the information and submitting the information for us to review. Nominate online at <https://web.extension.illinois.edu/registration/?RegistrationID=19167>

INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS:- Completing all the information for your 4-H member(s) in 4-H Online is very important. When I am running reports it will only give me the information that you included. I run special list for projects, ages, etc..

For example-if I am looking for the address, phone number, and email for members in the beef project it will only give me the information that you have entered. I noticed that MANY, MANY of you have not included an email , phone number, contact info for emergency person, dad’s or mom’s cell phone, etc. for everyone child.

Each child’s “enrollment” information must be complete. There is no way for me to duplicate it.

Lives are complicated and each household has a special circumstance, please do not assume I know.

AWARD DEADLINES—

- **County Record Books/Experience Awards Applications**— NEW process used by members 8-18. Competitive and Non-Competitive Awards will be selected from this 2 step process. [Due October 1.](#)
- **Sustaining Your Future Award**: Applicants must be 17-19 and exemplify leadership, citizenship and professionalism skills. This award is sponsored by the Illinois Farm Bureau and Affiliate Companies. Winners will be invited to a 3-day Premier 20 Youth Leadership Conference in April. [Due January 7.](#)
- **“I Dare You” Award**: Nominees must be 15-18 years of age. Club leaders must submit nomination forms. Nominees must show personal integrity, balanced living, a proven willingness to learn, and a motivation for leadership. [Due October 1](#)
- **“Top 4-Her” Award**: Youth between the ages of 15-18 may apply. Applicants must fill out the application AND have two references fill out the reference form AND must participate in an interview process hosted by Farm Bureau. [Due October 1](#)

You may access each award by clicking on the following link: [https://extension.illinois.edu/jsw/jo-davies-county-awards-and-scholarships.](https://extension.illinois.edu/jsw/jo-davies-county-awards-and-scholarships)

GET MONEY FOR COLLEGE—Youth who have demonstrated and maintained a high standard of 4-H excellence and mastery during their membership tenure may be eligible to apply for a scholarship.

Illinois 4-H Scholarship: This merit-based scholarship is awarded to five Illinois 4-H members in each category: Animal Science, Civic Engagement/Global Living, Creating Performing Arts & Communication, Food Systems, Healthy Living/Nutrition, Leadership, Natural Resources & Environmental Science, Personal Growth, STEM/Robotic. Scholarships are \$1,000 and can be used to pay for any college-related costs. Scholarships are paid directly to the educational institution of the member’s choice. Members must be 15-18 years old, be currently enrolled in the Illinois 4-H program, and must have been a 4-H member for a minimum of 2 years. Applications must be submitted to the State 4-H Office by [November 1.](#)

Apply online at <https://form.jotform.com/211745692702154>

YQCA-All IL 4-H members exhibiting animals entering the food production system will be required to complete the **Youth for the Quality Care of Animal certification (YQCA)**. This will replace former trainings: PQA and QAEC. This is what we know so far:

- This program is the industry-standard certification and is the only program accepted by packers.
- This will be mandatory in order to exhibit at any show and all fairs.
- This certification may be taken online or in person.
- 4-Hers will need to re-certify every year.
- There will be a \$12 fee/ person/year for all online courses. If you choose to take the certification class in person there will be a \$3/per person/per year fee. **You will NOT be charged this fee for each species.**
- 4-Hers who exhibit only posters will not be required to complete either the YQCA or the QAEC.

A classroom style training will be offered sometime in in the late winter/early spring. This will be offered ONE time in Jo Daviess County each year and participants will be asked to pre-register and pay in advance.

There will be more communication as we get more information. In the meantime, if you are taking the ***goat, sheep, swine, beef, and dairy*** projects please note that all future communication regarding the YQCA will apply to you. Be on the lookout!

Horses, dogs, poultry, rabbit, and cats will still be required to take the Quality Assurance and Ethics (QAEC) training. This training is only required once in the member's career in each species.

THE DEADLINE TO COMPLETE ALL MANDATORY CERTIFICATIONS WILL BE JUNE 1.

TAX IMPLICATIONS FOR PRIZES, GIFTS, OR AWARDS— *“Program participants (including minors) will be required to provide their social security number or foreign national tax ID number PRIOR to receiving a prize, gift, or award to ensure proper IRS reporting as required by law. This sensitive information is kept confidential and handled through security protected software (PEAR). Participants will NOT be eligible for prize, gift, or award if social security or foreign national tax ID information is not provided.”*

-State 4-H Office

If I require a 4-Her's social security number in order for premiums are paid, I will contact that 4-Her directly. I will only need SS#s from the 4-Hers who I have A. I have not collected their number before **AND** B. if the premium check will be for more than \$100.

Stay tuned for more information on:

- ⇒ A possible “quilting” Spin Club
- ⇒ Horse Clinics
- ⇒ Livestock workshops or a possible Spin Club
- ⇒ And more.....

These are just opportunities to focus on a particular topic to expand your learning. Each Spin Club will only

CLOVERSEED CREATIVE WRITING CONTEST- Show off your creative writing skills and share what 4-H allows you to be!

Use the prompt “4-H Allows me to be ...” to inspire any type of creative written piece. This could include, but isn’t necessarily limited to: essays, song lyrics, poetic forms, word art, short stories or a speeches.

Your finished project should be:

- Your original work
- Less than 500 words in length
- Something that tells your story and inspires others!

If your work is chosen, you will be asked to submit at a later date:

- Your final piece written in your own handwriting for the final publication
- A picture of yourself for publication and social media promotion
- A video of you performing your piece (reading your poem, singing your song, etc.)
- A talent release for releasing your work for publication in the 2021-2022 Cloverseed

All submissions are due by Friday, September 24 at 5pm with winners notified the following week. This contest is only open to Illinois 4-H members. Please submit your work through this JotForm: <https://form.jotform.com/212454747041149>

4-H NATURE EXPLORERS SPIN CLUB

4-H "Nature Explorers" will provide participants with unique, hands-on experiences which will spark youth's excitement about nature, environmental stewardship, and citizen science. University of Illinois Extension and Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation are partnering to offer youth this AMAZING experience!

WHO: Any youth currently in 5th-12th grade may participate and 4-H membership is NOT required.

WHEN: Will meet 6 times between October-August

WHERE: Meeting locations will vary



So what will this club do exactly? This club has endless possibilities. Enjoy catching and observing frogs? Want to monitoring birds and other wildlife? Want to plant trees to improve our environment and help our communities? How about a scavenger hunt while floating the river? Then this club is for you!

One of the highlights for participants will be to adopt a local river and learn to monitor it's water quality. Our goal will be to connect participants with researchers who need help collecting this data. This will include collecting samples from "our" river. We will be the legs, eyes, and ears for researchers at IL RiverWatch as we collect and contribute data that would be difficult for them to collect.

The first meeting will take place on Wednesday, October 27.
Register by visiting go.illinois.edu/jsw or by calling 815-858-2273.
Deadline to register is October 20.



If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this program, please contact the Extension Office at 815-858-2273. Early requests are strongly encouraged to allow sufficient time for meeting your access needs.



4-H "Everything Art" Spin Club

"Everything Art" will provide youth with unique and hands on experiences that will spark their love for the creative arts.

Who: Any youth currently in the 3rd-12 grade. 4-H membership is not required.

When: Will meet 6 times between December-August.

Where: Meeting locations will vary

So what will this club do exactly? The club will **CREATE, LEARN,** and have **FUN!** Participants will enjoy learning the art of cake decorating, flower arranging, photography, clothing and textiles, and visual arts. Want to learn ceramics, wood carving, basket weaving? Maybe paper quilling? Leather craft or woodburning? The possibilities are limitless.

The first meeting will focus on cake decorating and will take place on
Saturday, December 4
Elizabeth Community Building

Can't attend that date? Don't worry there will be 5 more!
Register by visiting go.illinois.edu/jsw or by calling 815-858-2273
Deadline to register is November 16.

If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this program, please contact the Extension Office at 815-858-2273. Early requests are strongly encouraged to allow sufficient time for meeting your access needs.



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2021 JUNIOR LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

The Illinois 4-H Junior Leadership Conference (JLC) is a fun-filled event which provides junior high 4-H members (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 Date:

October 16 OR October 17, 2021

This year, the format of the conference has changed to a one-day conference, and will be offered on Saturday, October 16 and repeated on Sunday, October 17. Participants will choose which date to attend.

With COVID cases rising, we will limit registrations to 25 youth per day and spots are on a first come, first served basis. Note that this conference usually reaches capacity before the deadline to register. As these conference dates reach capacity, a waiting list will be activated.

Location: Decatur Hotel & Conference Center, 4191 US 36 West, Decatur, IL 62522

Hotel phone: 217-422-8800

Open to: any 4-H member in 7th or 8th grade

Cost: \$50 (t-shirt, lunch, conference supplies and activities)

How to register: Participants may visit the event website go.illinois.edu/4Hjlc to register. Link is in the green box on the right side.

ENJOY THESE SESSIONS:

- ⇒ **Rolling With the Punches: Fake left, fake right, and keep failure out of sight!**
- ⇒ **Colorful Me: Join us to discover your personality color!**
- ⇒ **Take Flight with 4-H: High-speed racing.**
- ⇒ **Building Up Your Public Speaking Skills**
- ⇒ **Ready, Set, GROW!**

COVID 19 PRECAUTIONS & EXPECTATIONS: COVID-19 social distancing and safety practices reflect requirements of the Illinois Department of Public Health and University of Illinois event guidelines and will be in place at this event.



Illinois 4-H Safe

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

Illinois 4-H Safe notes are intended primarily for 4-H staff and volunteers.

INTERNET SAFETY FOR YOUTH

Youth are utilizing the internet and many other online platforms now more than ever. This can be a great resource, a way to connect with friends or keep up on current events. However, we must remind youth of potential dangers.

The following provides safety tips when using the internet:

Internet Safety Tips for Keeping Youth Safe:

- Never provide personal information, such as your password, name, address, telephone number, name of your school or any information about your family. Do not provide information that would make it easy for a stranger to find you, including being the member of a team, club, group, or organization or specific times and places where you will be going. Never agree to meet anyone you've met online. Tell an adult immediately if someone is trying to get you to meet them.
- Do not complete a profile that asks for your name and address.
- Do not talk to strangers on the Internet – this can include DM's from people you don't know or even reacting to unsolicited comments or story reactions from them.
- You never truly know who is behind a profile so be cautious with those you only know online. You never know who is representing themselves truthfully and who is not.
- Do not visit a chat room without your parent's/guardian's permission.
- If you receive any communication that makes you feel uncomfortable, do not respond to it. Instead, show it to a parent or guardian. If you don't know them, don't interact with them!
- Don't stay online if you see something you think your parents won't like.
- Do not open email from someone you do not know. It may contain a virus that could damage your computer.
- Never buy or trade anything on the Internet unless you have your parent's or guardian's permission.
- Do not join a mailing list without your parent's or guardian's permission.
- Do not post pictures of yourself without your parent's permission.
- Do not install or download anything on your computer without your parent's permission, including downloading or using new social media platforms or apps
- Avoid emailing financial information. Before submitting financial information through a web site, look for the "lock" icon on the browser's status bar. It indicates your information is secure during transmission.
- Remember to communicate electronically with others using the same courtesy that you would like to be communicated with.
- Posts are permanent! Do not post or write anything on the Internet that could be embarrassing to yourself or others. Be aware that once something is posted or entered on the Internet, it cannot be retracted. Employers or schools may use information obtained from the Internet as part of their application process and could review what you have posted or entered



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204 Vine, P.O. Box 600
Elizabeth, IL 61028**