



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

Dear 4-H Families,

Happy New Year! We hope everyone had safe and joy-filled holidays. And with the New Year comes some exciting new announcements...

First and foremost, we'd like to welcome **Kristi Smith** as the new 4-H Program Coordinator for Peoria County! Kristi has been a valued member of the 4-H family for many years—as both a youth member and a volunteer. Now, we're thrilled to welcome her as a staff person! We'll be in touch with her official contact information as it becomes available, and hope you'll join us in welcoming her in her new role!

Also, we're excited to bring you a new newsletter format that will be mailed every other month. Be sure to read through it to make sure you're up-to-date on all the fun, 4-H happenings throughout the year. We're so excited to learn and grow with you in the year to come!

Sincerely,

Judy & Emily

Judy Schmidt
4-H Youth Development Educator, Metro

Emily Schoenfelder
4-H Youth Development Educator, Multi-County



Beef Weigh-In & Tattooing

The 2022 date for the beef weigh-in & tattooing will be **Saturday, February 5, 2022** from **8-10am** at the **Stark County Fairgrounds** (310 Diagonal Street, Wyoming, IL 61491). Plan to be on the fairgrounds no later than 9:30am. Please hold February 12 as a backup date in case of inclement weather.

Please let Angie know if you plan to attend at asassine@illinois.edu or 685-3140.



Local 4-H EVENTS

JANUARY

- 5 Happy New Year! Office Re-Opens
- 6 Federation Movie Night—6pm Kickapoo Town Hall
- 7 Food Advocacy Grant application deadline
- 13 Speaking for IL 4-H registration deadline
- 17 MLK Day—Office Closed
- 24 Camp Registration opens!
- 25

FEBRUARY

- 3 Federation—6pm Kickapoo Town Hall
- 5 Beef Weigh-In—8-10am Stark County Fairgrounds
- 10 Web Development Through Games—1st Meeting!
- 17 Volunteer Café Conversations— 7pm
- 19 State Horse Judging—11am Black Hawk East
- 19 Poultry Workshop—10:30am Macomb
- 19 Air Rifle Competition Training— 9am Bloomington

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

Joli Pierson

4-H Program Coordinator, Mason County

Kristi Smith

4-H Program Coordinator, Peoria County

Katharine Girone

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

Let's Make it Official

Remember, no one is “officially” part of 4-H until they’re approved on [4-H Online](#) – and that goes for leaders, too! Be sure that your family gets enrolled so you don’t miss out on any 4-H fun! The [Family Enrollment Guide](#) walks you through the whole process.

Note: Some families have been struggling with credit card payments on 4-H online. We recommend that you delete any stored CC info and re-enter prior to payment. You can find instructions to do so [HERE](#).

The 4-H program fee will remain at \$20 per youth participant, with a family cap of \$60. However, no one will be denied membership due to inability to pay. If you need a fee waiver, complete [THIS FORM](#) and return it to your local Extension Office.

You can also request the books or curriculum for projects that you’ve enrolled in at <https://go.illinois.edu/FMPTpubs>. Books that come as hard copies are \$2 each. As always, if you have any questions, give us a call!

Connect with Us!

Contact us with any questions and follow along on state and local pages for news, updates, and announcements! If your club has a picture or story you’d like to feature on the social media pages, send it our way!

[Illinois 4-H Facebook Page](#)

Instagram: @illinois4h

Twitter: @illinois4h

[Fulton-Mason-Peoria-Tazewell Unit Extension Facebook Page](#)

[Peoria County 4-H Facebook Page](#)

Connection Corner Blog: <https://extension.illinois.edu/blogs/connection-corner>

Website: <https://extension.illinois.edu/fmpt>

Peoria County Office Phone: 309-685-3140

4-H Staff:

Angie Sassine—asassine@illinois.edu

Kristi Smith—email TBA

Emily Schoenfelder—eschoe@illinois.edu

Judy Schmidt—schmid7@illinois.edu

Earl Allen—erallen@illinois.edu

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, CONSUMER, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

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Horsin' Around Special Interest Club

Do you know someone who is horse-crazy and wants to learn all about horses? We have the perfect Special Interest Club for them! Youth do not need a horse join our fun study group called "Horse Bowl and Hippology".

The group will meet via Zoom for practices on Wednesdays at 3 pm for about three months starting in January to learn lots of different equine science topics and study different reference materials; all to prepare for a Horse-themed quiz bowl game, "Horse Bowl". Members will have a chance to compete at the regional Horse Bowl and Hippology Contest.

If interested, please text/call Vera Betzelberger at 309-231-6375 or verabetzelberger@yahoo.com.

Web Development through Games Club Begins Winter Session

Register at Go.illinois.edu/WebDev

Are you interested in learning about web development? You are invited to join this club and learn more about web development through HTML, CSS and JavaScript. Club members will create three projects: a simple homepage, a quiz with ASCII animation, and a text-adventure with navigation. This club is intended to help youth interested in web development learn about and practice some fundamental skills of syntax, design, and problem solving. It will help you learn to use the correct coding language to communicate with others, and to give you the independence to make decisions on your own when developing your own work.

Web Development through Games Club

Meeting Dates: every Thursday, starting February 10 through March 17. Club will meet from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Illinois Math Academy in Northwoods Mall. The cost is \$25 (includes 4-H membership fee.) If you are already a 4-H member, cost is \$5. Fee waivers are available.

High School age youth invited to join.

For more information contact Judy Schmidt, schmid7@illinois.edu



Connection Corner Blog

extension.illinois.edu/blogs/connection-corner

Local 4-H educators Judy Schmidt and Emily Schoenfelder write a weekly blog that provides us with timely information, activities, and resources that help us stay connected to loved ones, the world around us, and ourselves.

Recent posts include:

- [3 ways to reduce stress this holiday season](#)
- [Exploring new cultures during the holidays](#)
- [3 ideas to help reduce stress for busy families](#)
- [Youth Mental Health First Aid can help you reach out to youth in crisis](#)

Club Activity Opportunity!

Bring an engaging, hands-on activity to your next club meeting...and introduce your kids to the brand new Cover Crop Science 4-H project. Matthew Hagaman, one of the Cover Crop Science project book authors, would love to visit your club! Activities are free for clubs (thanks to a USDA grant) and last about 20 minutes—though times are flexible. Some of the activities he offers include...

- **Engineering a Cover Crop Harvester:** Conduct experiments & compare/contrast results to engineer a model plant harvester.
- **Cover Crop Life Cycles:** Work with plant materials to sequence the life cycle of a pennycress plant.
- **Making Cover Crop Ink:** Experiment with materials to discover how to make an ink, including oil, water, and an emulsifier.
- **Gene Editing with LEGOs:** Examine parts of 2 different pennycress plants, then use LEGOs to understand the process of working with DNA to improve crops.

If you'd like to learn more, contact Emily at eschoe@illinois.edu or Matthew at mthagam@ilstu.edu

Livestock Ownership Dates

Listed below are the tentative dates by which animals must be owned and personally cared for by the exhibitor in order to be shown at the County 4-H Shows and State Fair.

BEEF

Steers - February 1, 2022 (calved on or after 1/1/21)
Cows - January 1, 2022 (born before 9/1/20)
Heifers - June 1, 2022 (State Fair — birthdates from 9/1/20 to 3/31/22; County Fair — birthdates from 9/1/20 to 3/1/22)

DAIRY

Calves and Heifers - June 1, 2022
Cows - January 1, 2022

DAIRY GOATS

Kids and Yearlings not in milk - June 1, 2022
Milking Does - January 1, 2022

MEAT GOATS

All meat goats — May 15, 2022
Wethers—Must be registered and tattooed in the name of the exhibitor only by May 15, 2022 (must be born on or after October 1, 2021)

POULTRY AND RABBITS

June 1, 2022 (or out of stock owned prior to June 1)

HORSES — Ownership and/or lease forms must be on file with the Extension Office by your County deadline each year.

SHEEP

Breeding Sheep - June 1, 2022
(Yearling Ewes = birthdates 1/1/21-8/31/21)
(Ewe lambs = birthdates 9/1/21 and after)
(Ram lambs = birthdates after 1/1/22)
State Fair Wethers - May 15, 2022 (lambd on or after 1/1/22) (County Fair — ownership by June 1, 2022).

SWINE

May 1, 2022 (for County Fair)
June 1, 2022 (for State Fair)
State Fair and County Fair gilts must be farrowed on or after 1/1/22.
For State Fair, all barrows must have been farrowed on or after January 1, 2022 and must be the property of the exhibitor since June 1, 2022. Premier barrows must have been farrowed on or after February 10, 2022.
For County Fair Rate of Gain, barrows must have been farrowed on or after February 10, 2022 (or on or after January 15, 2022 if not Rate of Gain).

Note that these are ownership, not enrollment deadlines. Livestock enrollment deadlines are determined by your County 4-H office.



Join us for 4-H Volunteer

Café Conversations

Volunteer Café Conversations

Mark your calendars now to participate in the Spring 2022 **4-H Volunteer Café Conversations**.

Café Conversations is a platform for 4-H Volunteers and 4-H members serving in leadership roles from across Illinois to meet virtually and discuss topics of interest, and share both ideas and challenges. The dates are:

Thursday, February 17, 2022; 7 PM

Thursday, May 19, 2022; 7 PM

We will identify the topics for the next two Conversations in January! Watch for future registration details!

News from Illinois 4-H



Save the date! The 4-H State Horse Judging will be February 19 at Black Hawk East in Galva, IL (Registration at 11 a.m. judging starts at noon)

And save the date for the State Horse Bowl, Hippology & Horse Speaking Contests that will be April 23 & 24 on UIUC campus. The regional contest is tentatively set for March 26 at Parkland College. More details coming soon!



4-H Exchange

Host a young person from Japan or South Korea this summer through States' 4-H International Exchange Program! Families are needed for July 23 through August 18 (tentative dates). Applications are accepted until all placements are made. There is no cost for this program. Students are matched with a host sibling by age, gender, and interests, so families hosting must have a child the between 12-18. *Host family selection is dependent on completion of an application and screening process, as well as student availability and personality compatibility.*

For more information or to apply, visit:

www.states4hexchange.org.

Find us on Facebook @ [facebook.com/Illinois4hexchange](https://www.facebook.com/Illinois4hexchange)

or contact Illinois S4-H Coordinators: Miriam Rosenbohm @ rosenbohm07@comcast.net or Elisha Hughes @ ehugh2@illinois.edu.

Are you ready to get back to camping at 4-H Memorial Camp? We are! We are planning on having four (4) Summer Youth Camps in the summer of 2022. New this year, we will have an early registration period for 4-H Members only. Watch for additional information to be shared on the 4-H Memorial Camp [website](#) and on our Facebook [page](#).

Registration Dates:

Jan. 24-Feb. 6, 2022 4-H Members Only

Feb. 7, 2022- until full 4-H Members and non-members

Camp Dates:

June 5-9, 2022

June 12-16, 2022

July 5-9, 2022

July 17-21, 2022



Summer camp employees wanted! Applications are currently being accepted for the following positions:

Summer Program Staff (18 years old minimum)

Summer/Seasonal Assistant Camp Director

Lead Male/Female Counselors

Lifeguards

Outdoor Education Director

Arts & Crafts Director

Creation Station (S.T.E.M.) Director

Recreation Director

Climbing Tower Director

Cabin Counselors (16 years old minimum)

Additional details and application materials can be found on the 4-H Memorial Camp [website](#) towards the bottom of the page under *4-H Resources*. Contact Andy Davis ardavis1@illinois.edu, (217) 762-2741 with any questions.



This year's competition will revolve around the work of the 4-H in Space Mission Command Team, which is preparing curriculum and programming options for Illinois youth working with the International Space Station National Laboratories (ISS) and The Lab for Advanced Space Systems at Illinois, Dept. of Aerospace Engineering, (LASSI). These collaborations will enable Illinois 4-H youth to send experiments to the ISS, and build/launch micro satellites into orbit.

The SpaceBot Mission Command Challenge will take place at the **McLean County Fairgrounds in Bloomington, IL on Saturday, April 16, 2022**. Team registration will open **January 17, 2022** and will close **March 16, 2022**. There will be a \$20 Entry fee per team assessed at the time of registration. ***This year All Health Forms are due at time of registration and will be accessible through the Challenge Download Link.***

Challenge Download/Documents Folder:

go.illinois.edu/2022CHALLENGE

Register Here on Jan 17, 2022:

go.illinois.edu/4HR2022

Challenge Announcement Video (Available Dec. 14):

go.illinois.edu/224HRVID



GET YOUR TACKLE READY - 2022 4-H Sport Fishing Virtual Monthly Challenges Coming Soon!

Open to all current year 4-H members, but sweet prizes **only** for 4-H members registered in the 4-H Sport Fishing project for the 2021-2022 year. Tournament details coming soon!

April – Crappie State 4-H Tournament

May – Largemouth Bass 4-H State Tournament

June – Channel Catfish 4-H State Tournament



Tell Your 4-H Story –

Join the *Speaking for Illinois 4-H* Team

We're looking for 4-H members interested in spreading the great news about 4-H. 4-H members 14 years of age or older can join the *Speaking for Illinois 4-H* team. There will be a virtual training offered on **Saturday, January 16 from 9-11 a.m.**

This virtual training, provided by the Illinois State 4-H Youth Leadership Team, gives you the chance to explore your own 4-H history and why you are involved, put that story into words, and learn the best ways to approach donors, civic groups, elected officials, and others to talk about 4-H. Learn why 4-H believes in Positive Youth Development and how we emphasize the essential elements of Belonging, Independence, Generosity and Mastery. All of this – and more – is a part of *Speaking for Illinois 4-H!* Once you're trained, you'll receive an invitation to be a part of our Legislative Connection events. Members of this team will meet a minimum of four times throughout the year virtually as a team to remain on the team.

Registration is open NOW @: 4h.extension.illinois.edu/events/speaking-illinois-4-h-training. Registration will close January 13.

Special Workshop - Intro to 4-H Air Rifle Competitions

February 19, 2022

Take your existing 4-H air rifle club to a new level! Competition training for 4-H Rifle Club leaders and up to three 4-H Club members. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Central Illinois Precision Shooters in Bloomington, IL.

Contact Curt Sinclair at sinclair@illinois.edu for flyer and/or register at: go.illinois.edu/4HAirRifleTraining

Save the Dates: 2022 4-H Shooting Sports Adult Volunteer Certification Trainings

Registration details coming in January, but check out the locations and save these dates!

Sat., March 26, 2022 Tombstone Range, Marion, IL (southern Illinois)

Sat., May 7, 2022 4-H Memorial Camp, Monticello, IL (central Illinois)

Sat., July 16, 2022 Bi-State Sportsman's Club, Colona, IL (N.W. Illinois)



Illinois Extension
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Return Service Requested



Cover Crop Scientists

4-H SPECIAL INTEREST CLUB

Do you love science?
Do you have a passion for the environment?
Are you interested in agriculture?

If the answer to any of these questions is YES, then this club is for you!

Peoria - Tazewell

Dates: Mondays @ 4:30

April 4, 11, 18 & 25

May 2

Special Sat. Session:

May 7

Tentative Location:

East Peoria

Join us as we dissect plants, conduct soil experiments, explore biodiesel, and take a field trip to real biology labs! Open to all young people, grades 5-8.

To learn more or register, visit:
go.illinois.edu/CoverCropScientistClub

Fulton - Mason

Dates: Thursdays @ 4:30

April 14, 21 & 28

May 5 & 12

Special Sat. Session:

May 14

Tentative Location:

Havana

