



## Mercer County Extension Office:

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County Director: Jenny Garner  
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Youth Development Educator: Jennifer Peterson  
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Mercer County Program Coordinator: Tracy Fowler-Pestle  
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### OFFICE HOURS:

8 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday

Closed for lunch from 12-12:30

State 4-H Website: <https://4h.extension.illinois.edu/>

Find us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/4HMercerCounty>



## **ZSuite 4-H Online enrollment system:** [Zsuite.com](http://Zsuite.com)

This is the main 4-H database and the website you'll use to enroll and re-enroll. Re-enrollments are due **December 1**. New Member enrollments must be in by **March 1** in order to exhibit at the county fair. It is very important that you keep track of the email and password you use to create your profile. It is also very important that you keep your contact information up-to-date. We use the contact information in this system for all mailings and emails.

## **Fair Entry:** [fairentry.com](http://fairentry.com)

This is the website where you enter classes for the fair. It will open early May and closes June 1. You must create a family profile the first time you log in to the system.

## **Quality Assurance and Ethics Training (QA& E):** [4h.extension.illinois.edu/programs/animal-sciences/quality-assurance-ethics-training](http://4h.extension.illinois.edu/programs/animal-sciences/quality-assurance-ethics-training)

All members enrolled in: Cats, Dairy Cattle, Dairy Goats, Dogs, Horses, Poultry, and Rabbits, are required to complete this training once in their 4-H career.

## **Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA):** <http://yqca.org/>

YQCA is a national multi-species quality assurance program for youth ages 8 to 21 with a focus on three core pillars: food safety, animal well-being, and character development.

All youth showing the following food animals must complete this training annually or test out of age group:

Beef Cattle, Meat Goats, Sheep, Swine

## **Risk Forms:**

All members are required to complete a lifetime risk form once in their 4-H career. Forms must be signed by a parent/guardian and turned in to club leader before member can participate in a 4-H activity.

Most Extension units offer similar 4-H activities and events throughout the year. The calendar below gives an idea of when some set events and deadlines happen. Mercer County also offers SPIN club and project workshops on different topics at various times throughout the year.

Find more information on all events in the monthly **NEWSLETTER**. The newsletter will be emailed to you at the beginning of each month and will contain important deadlines, events, activities, requirements and information. It comes as a pdf. The newsletter is sent to emails listed in your ZSuites 4-H profile, so it is important that you keep your email current.

September	October	November	December
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Beginning of 4-H Year</li> <li>*Enrollment begins</li> <li>*New Year Packets are distributed at club meetings</li> <li>*Treasurer's &amp; Secretary books due</li> <li>*Club Excel Award applications due</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Enrollment continues</li> <li>* National 4-H Week</li> <li>* Award apps from previous year due</li> <li>*Erin Neuleib Horse Scholarship due</li> <li>*Salute to Excellence nominations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Club Award Programs</li> <li>* State Award applications due to state, submissions are done by Extension staff</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Re-enrollments due by <b>December 1</b></li> </ul>
January	February	March	April
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Livestock judging practices begin</li> <li>* Livestock ownership dates released</li> <li>*Horse Bowl teams form and start meeting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Beef weigh-in</li> <li>*4-H Academy @WIU-QC</li> <li>*Fair Book Cover Contest</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* All enrollments due</li> <li>*Public Speaking Contest</li> <li>*Horse Bowl Team registrations due</li> <li>*4-H Memorial Scholarship application due</li> <li>*Patti Jeanne Higgins 4-H Scholarship due</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Dog Obedience classes begin</li> <li>*National Volunteer Week</li> <li>*National Day of Service</li> <li>* 4-H Fishing SPIN Club starts</li> </ul>
May	June	July	August
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Quality Assurance &amp; Ethics due</li> <li>*YQCA due</li> <li>*Horse Ownership Papers due</li> <li>*Equestrian Riding Spin Club starts</li> <li>*Fair books distributed</li> <li>*All 4-H project selection changes due</li> <li>*Hall of Fame nominations</li> <li>*Illinois Summer Academia registrations</li> <li>*4-H Memorial Camp registrations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*State Horse Entries June 1</li> <li>*Fair Entries due June 1</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Mercer County Fair</li> <li>*State Fair livestock entries due to State Fair office</li> <li>*State Fair Horse Show</li> <li>*Phyllis Nelson Memorial Livestock Scholarship due</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*State Fair</li> <li>*State Dog Show</li> <li>* End of year.</li> <li>* Finalize treasurer books</li> </ul>