



JANUARY 2020

MERCER & ROCK ISLAND

Deadlines:

January 31 Registration for
Beef Weigh-in

March 1 Enrollments

Events:

Jan 13 Digital Ambassadors

Jan 25 Geneseo Livestock
Judging

Feb 1 Beef Weigh-in

Feb 22 4-H Academy

Feb. 22 & 23 Jr Leadership
Conference

March 7 - Ag Careers Day

March 14 - Soup Cook-off

March 28 - Public Speaking

April 4 - Regional Horse Bowl

April 25 - National Day of
Service

Reminder:

*Our offices will be closed from
Friday, December 20 until
Monday, January 6.*

Happy Holidays!

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Citizen Scientist clubs in Rock Island and Mercer Counties are participating in a Barred Owl nesting experiment. Over the past couple months, the groups built two different nesting boxes - one with a top and one without. The traditional nesting box is the one with the top. Studies have shown that this might be ideal for Barred Owls. In January, the groups will place the boxes at least 20 feet up in trees near water. From February to April, the youth will monitor activity in the boxes with the help of trail cameras. They will record their findings. All data will be reported to the Cornell Ornithology Lab at the end of the trial period. The youth will learn about the Barred Owl and owl habitats as well as how to monitor the nesting boxes without disturbing the wildlife.



NEWS & notes

Mercer & Rock Island



STEER WEIGH-IN

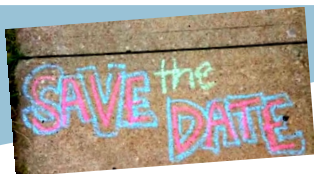
When: Saturday, February 1

Where: Mercer County Fairgrounds, Aledo

When: 8-11 a.m.

All steers must be weighed and tattooed to show at the county fair. Steers going to State Fair will also need an 840 tag.

****Contact Tracy no later than January 31 if you are bringing steers to weigh-in.****



4-H Academy

The 3rd Annual 4-H Academy will be held on Saturday, February 22 at the Western Illinois QC campus. The day will feature all new sessions ranging from video game design to macramé and food science to weather.

The academy is open to all youth ages 8-18. Registration will open in mid-January and close in mid-February or when all sessions are filled. Look for an email early in 2020 with the registration link.



Ag Careers Day

The next Ag Careers Day will be held on Saturday, March 7 at Black Hawk East. This event is open to youth ages 12 to 18. Youth will select four one-hour sessions to attend throughout the day. Registration will open in February.

Hamlet Hand Helpers

Submitted by Megan Gray



Members of the Hamlet Handy Helpers 4-H Club made snowman door decorations with the residents of Brookstone in Aledo on December 7, 2019. They helped assemble and decorate them, so the residents could display them on their doors. They enjoyed their time of fellowship and the upcoming holiday season.

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.

SAVE THE DATE

The college exploration event of the year is set for 2020. Illini Summer Academies will be held

June 21-27 on the University of Illinois campus.

Registration opens March 16 and runs through April 17.

Youth requesting financial assistance should apply

January 31 to March 1. Look for new information soon.



NEWS & notes

Mercer & Rock Island



Design the 2020 Fair Book Cover

Deadline for submissions is **February 1** to Tracy.

Requirements:

- Include County name & fair dates
- Must be on 8.5x11 white paper with a **1" border** on all sides
- 4-H Clover must be included
- Black & White copies only - **black pen or marker**
- One entry allowed per person
- **Put your name, 4-H club and age in the lower right corner of the page**
- Preference will be given to original drawings, but computer designs are allowed.

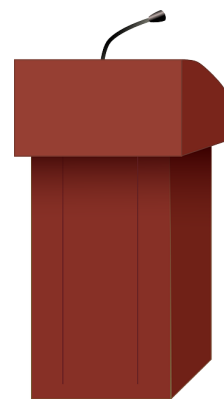
For questions, contact the Extension Office.

Public Speaking

The 2020 public speaking contest is scheduled for Saturday, March 28. 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.

Stay tuned for location and time information for the county contest.



Soup Cook-Off



Plans are underway for the **March 14** soup cook-off. Each club is asked to make a roaster of their best soup and donate a box of crackers. We are asking each club to bring a crock-pot to serve out of. Drop off soup and crackers at the Aledo Fire Station at

3:30 p.m. on March 14. **Soup must be hot and ready to serve.** If you need alternate arrangements, call the Extension office by **March 12**. Soup will be served from 5-7 p.m. It is a free supper, but in-kind donations will go to American Legion for the Veteran's Marker Project. 4-H members are invited to help serve. Interested members should arrive at the fire station by 2:30. This is a great opportunity for county-level participation!



4-H Memorial Camp

Registration will open for this summer's camp on **February 3**. Cost is \$250 for 4-H members and \$290 for non-members. There are 5 different weeks from which to choose:

- Week 1 - Tuesday, June 2 - Saturday, June 6
- Week 2 - Sunday, June 7 - Thursday, June 11
- Week 3 - Sunday, June 14 - Thursday, June 18
- Week 4 - Sunday, July 5 - Thursday, July 9
- Week 5 - Sunday, July 26 - Thursday, July 30

Around the State



The 2020 IAA scholarship applications are now available. There are more than 76 scholarships available through the Illinois and County Farm Bureaus totaling \$118,000 in tuition support. Applications are due

BEFORE February 1, 2020. Visit www.iaafoundation.org for applications and instructions.



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.



Citizenship Washington Focus is a life-changing week that empowers 4-Her's to take their leadership to the next level. The trip is July 4-11. You must be at least 14 by May 1, 2020 to attend.

During the week you'll explore the legislative process through

workshops and hands-on sessions, tour historical sights and give your voice on issues.

Cost is estimated at \$1,305 with some financial assistance from the IL 4-H Foundation. Deadline to register is **January 3** at go.illinois.edu/4HCWF.



The Teach Outdoor (\$500) and Joyce Betz Memorial (\$1,000) Scholarship applications are due **January 1**. Both applications can be downloaded at

www.teachoutdoors.org/scholarship.html.

Junior Leadership Conference

You'll laugh. You'll make new friends. You'll even learn cool ideas to take back to your own 4-H club at this year's Illinois 4-H Junior Leadership Conference. The conference is open to 4-H members in **7th and 8th grades**. The conference is only open to the first 100 participants, so register as soon as possible at go.illinois.edu/4Hjlc.



Where: Holiday Inn in Effingham

When: February 22 & 23

Workshops:

- Flying into the Virtual World - Take a trip to Europe, South America, and Africa through the world of virtual reality. Help solve international problems in the form of fun engineering challenges!
- Tacky Tourist Trivia - On this trivia tour, you'll test your knowledge of the world, 4-H, pop culture, and more.
- Weathering the Storm of Agriculture - Find out how the weather and agriculture affect one another and the impact of both across the globe.
- Follow Our Lead - Take a trip to India to learn and practice dancing fusion and experience the rich cultural history the dance has to offer.
- Pass the Plate - Explore international diets, learn about the components of proper nutrition, and complete a food science experiment....and participate in a food packing event.

Enroll in Food Science to win cash!

The Chicagoland Food Science Foundation will be awarding \$50 to the top food science project in each county this year. Look for full details this summer, but enroll in the project now so you don't miss out!





NEWS & notes

Livestock Edition



**REMINDER ANIMAL ETHICS

Ethics Requirements for 2019-2020

Youth enrolled in horses, poultry, rabbits, cats & dogs:

That training is found here:

<https://web.extension.illinois.edu/qaec/>

Youth enrolled in beef, sheep, swine, and goats:

Online - The training can be completed here:

Online training here: yqca.org.

2. **In Person** - We will offer one in-person training per county in the winter/spring. Cost of certification through this method is \$3, but it will only certify you for one year.

Note: This requirement only applies to youth planning to show a *live* animal. It does not apply to youth exhibiting a poster related to an animal.

If you have questions, contact Jennifer

Geneseo Livestock Judging Contest

When: Saturday, January 25, 2020

Where: Black Hawk East Ag Pavilion

Time: Registration 8:00-9:45 a.m.

Contest 10:00 a.m.

What: 3 Beef, 3 Swine, 2 Sheep, 1 Goat and 1 EPD class with 1 question class from 3 species.

Divisions: Junior (8th grade and under)
Senior (9th-12th)

Cost: \$20 if registered on or before January 20
\$25 after January 20

Contact: Brian Stahl at (309) 945-0347 or
bstahl@dist229.org



DOG OBEDIENCE CLINIC

When: Saturday, January 18; 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Where: Granny Rose K-9 Enrichment Center
613 River Lane, Dixon, IL

Topics Covered: Agility, Grooming, Health & Nutrition, and Rally. Presenters will be expert dog handlers and veterinarians.

Register: go.illinois.edu/state4-Hdogclinic

Do NOT bring dogs. This training is for 4-H members only and is sponsored by the State Livestock Ambassador Team. The livestock ambassadors will be doing dog trivia games and activities during the morning.

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 the State contests which are Saturday, April 18 and Sunday, April 19 in Champaign.

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

State Horse Show - July 26 through August 2, 2020



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
Viola, IL 61486
Phone: 309-871-5032; FAX: 309-871-5034

Jenny Garner
County Director
jsgarnr@illinois.edu

Jennifer Peterson
Extension Educator
4-H Youth Development
jpetersn@illinois.edu

Kristin Bogdonas
Extension Educator
Nutrition & Wellness
kmbogdo@illinois.edu

Russell Medley
Extension Educator
Community & Economic Development
rmedley@illinois.edu

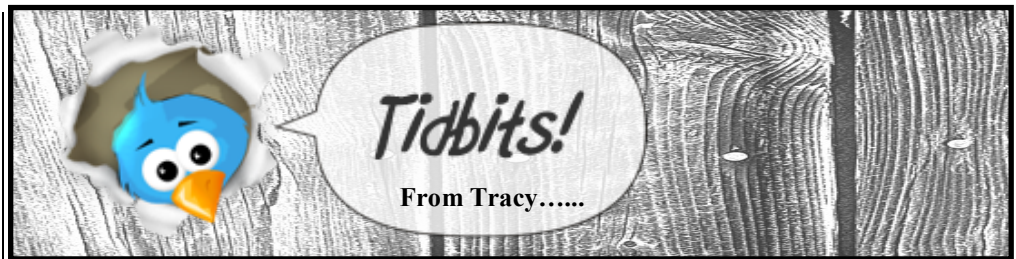
Martha Smith
Extension Educator
Horticulture
smithma@illinois.edu

Tracy Pestle
4-H Program Coordinator
fowlerpe@illinois.edu

Teresa Kirwan
4-H Program Coordinator
Ag Ed Coordinator
tkirwan@illinois.edu

Molly Foster
Office Support Assistant
mfoster@illinois.edu

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



Happy Holidays!



Tracy wanted to share a quick and easy holiday recipe from Betty Crocker. She says it is colorful, easy to make and very tasty. I (Jennifer) do not cook unless under extreme duress, but it certainly looks tasty!

Ingredients

- 1 can (8oz) Pillsbury refrigerated crescent dinner rolls
- 1 round (8oz) Brie cheese
- 1 tablespoon seedless raspberry jam
- 1/4 cup fresh raspberries
- 1 egg, beat

Steps:

1. Heat oven to 350. Unroll dough; separate crosswise into 2 sections. Press each section into 6-inch square, firmly pressing perforations to seal. Place cheese on center of 1 dough square; top with jam and raspberries.
2. With small cookie cutter, cut 1 shape from each corner of remaining dough square, 1 inch from center of square; set cutouts aside. Place square on top of cheese round. Press dough evenly around cheese, folding bottom edges over top edges; press to seal completely. Place on cookie sheet.
3. Brush dough with beaten egg. Arrange dough cutouts on top; brush with egg.
4. Bake 25 to 30 minutes or until golden brown. Remove from cookie sheet; place on serving plate. Cool 10 minutes. Serve warm with crackers. Store in refrigerator.

Give it a try and let us know what you think.
We'll see you in 2020!



*Warmest regards,
Tracy & Jennifer*

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