



ROCK ISLAND COUNTY 4-H 2020 RECAP

A Year Like No Other!



Photo A: Citizen Scientists work on their barred owl boxes.



Photo B: Youth build simple machines at 4-H Academy



Photo C: 4-Hers make "oobleck" at the Arsenal's Military 4-H Science Club



Photo D: Teens toured the auto lab during Ag Careers Camp at Black Hawk East



Photo E: 4-Hers enter projects, including horses, in the 2020 4-H Virtual Fair

Back in January, we were looking forward to an exciting 4-H year which included:

- 80 youth participated in the 4-H Academy at Western Illinois University on Saturday, February 22. They got to learn and explore doing hands-on science, art, and technology activities led by local and regional experts.
- 4-H Community Clubs were in full swing with members selecting their 4-H fair projects, submitting their paperwork, raising and training their livestock and planning for a traditional fair experience.
- 4-H Clubs signed up to bake desserts and pies for the annual Pork Chop Dinner & Pie Auction Fundraiser scheduled for April 2nd with business and family sponsors already donating to support the event which raises funds for 4-H and Extension programs.
- Plans were being finalized for the Ag Careers Camp scheduled for early summer.
- 4-H High school seniors and college alumni were filling out applications for the Bert Blood 4-H Scholarships to be awarded in April at a Rock Island Rotary Club meeting.
- Youth were gaining skills in their 4-H After School clubs, Shooting Sports clubs and 4-H Citizen Scientist club.
- Military 4-H Club members at the Arsenal were enjoying weekly hands-on science lessons.
- The 3rd annual 4-H Juntos "Together" 4-H college and career readiness program was preparing to launch in March thanks to a grant from The Moline Foundation.

And then in March - the Coronavirus Hit...

When the virus was first announced, we were hopeful it would be contained quickly. We couldn't imagine at the time that months later, county and state fairs would be canceled and we would be moving 4-H shows to a virtual format. With so much at risk, many changes had to be made to ensure the health and safety of our youth, families, staff, and volunteers. True to their 4-H character, everyone responded in a caring and respectful manner!

We believe in the value of 4-H shows as the culminating experience where 4-H members have the opportunity to demonstrate mastery of new skills and to receive expert level feedback about their efforts. So Illinois 4-H quickly set up a virtual systems to ensure our youth were still able to exhibit without risking their safety – or the safety of our adult judges and volunteers – by meeting in person.

4-H has always been about innovation and resilience. Our ability to find a way to still celebrate accomplishments and allow youth to display their creativity is a testament to that innovative spirit. Though in-person judging could not happen, project learning never stopped. Illinois 4-H responded in new ways to reach youth in a safe, virtual setting.

4-H members still received expert-level evaluation of their project work. All youth who entered projects are receiving awards and prizes. They will also get an **"I survived the 2020 4-H Virtual Fair"** t-shirt, thanks to our friends at River Valley Cooperative!

We appreciate everyone - members, parents, volunteers, staff and donors - who helped us adapt to this challenging year!

ROCK ISLAND COUNTY EXTENSION & 4-H EDUCATION FOUNDATION

The Rock Island County Extension & 4-H Education Foundation is a major source of support for our local 4-H and Extension programs. When you support their fundraisers, you are helping them provide the following to Rock Island County Extension & 4-H each year:

- \$6,000 in financial support for Rock Island County 4-H and Extension programs
- \$10,000 in community grants for 4-H and Extension programs
- \$4,750 in college scholarships to 4-H members in partnership with the Rock Island Rotary Club
- Management of the 4-H and Extension endowment accounts to sustain local programs for future generations
- \$1,000 for special events like the 4-H Academy
- Covering fees for qualifying 4-H members to attend state or national 4-H competitions/meetings
- Scholarships for Master Gardener and Master Naturalist Trainings



Congratulations to our 2020 Bert Blood 4-H Scholarship Recipients:



Hunter Johnson \$1,500



Bryn Callahan \$1,250



Mia Freyermuth, \$1,000



Nathan Parchert, \$500



Brianna Gorham, \$500

VIRTUAL Pork Chop Dinner & Pie Auction

Because of the Coronavirus, this year's Pork Chop Dinner and Pie Auction fundraiser had to be cancelled. Since this is the Foundation's main fundraiser and typically brings in \$5,000 in revenue for Rock Island County 4-H and Extension programs, **the Foundation is inviting supporters to send in \$10, \$20, \$30, whatever you can spare - to help make up some of the lost revenue.** This year, your support is especially important as Rock Island County Extension has been limited in its ability to raise revenue through its usual means such as classes or camps, spring plant sale, concession sales at the fair and other ways.



We appreciate any support you can provide to help meet our goals!

Thank you!!



Yes! I/we will support Rock Island County Extension & 4-H with a donation in the amount of \$_____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Email: _____ **Phone:** _____

Make check out to Rock Island County Extension & 4-H Foundation and send to: PO Box 527, Milan, IL 61264
Or make your donation online at www.rockislandextensionfoundation.com

Special thanks to our 2020 Virtual Pork Chop Dinner Fundraiser Sponsors!

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2020 Rock Island County 4-H Virtual Fair

The 2020 Rock Island County Virtual Fair is Complete!

4-H members from Rock Island County clubs participated in sharing their 4-H projects at this year's Virtual Fair. Hats off to the members, leaders, parents and judges for putting in the time and effort to transition their projects to an online format. The 4-H members recorded videos, snapped photos and wrote project reports to showcase the skills they gained in working on their projects.

Here are a few photos of their fair entries which included 101 Livestock & 123 General Projects. You can see the results, watch videos and see photos of the entries on our website and see highlights on Facebook extension.illinois.edu/hmrs/4-h-rock-island-county www.facebook.com/RockIslandCounty4H

