SEASONAL 4-H NEWSLETTER

Livingston | McLean | Woodford Spring 2020



4-H Supporting All Youth

Providing accommodations for youth development programming has always been important to 4-H. As an organization, we promote programming that promotes belonging, independence, generosity and opportunity for mastery for all youth. Even though accommodations have always been offered, McLean County 4-H is taking intentional steps toward providing inclusive and equitable opportunities for all youth who want to participate in 4-H.



4-H offers a variety of project areas, programs, workshops and opportunities to reach all youth audiences, no matter what they are interested in and no matter what support is needed in order for them to participate. Cost should never be a barrier for youth to be in 4-H or to attend a 4-H program and fee waivers are available to families upon request.

Club meetings, exhibiting at the county 4-H show or participating a workshop can be overwhelming especially to those are not used to it. Support can be provided to help with sensory overload, transitions, schedules, establishing routines and more. Physical accessibility is an important consideration and with advanced notice, 4-H staff can accommodate for youth with mobility restrictions. Interpreters can also be provided to support youth with language barriers from hearing impairments or for English Language Learners.

McLean, Livingston and Woodford County 4-H is extremely dedicated to providing equitable opportunities for all youth. To find out more about these opportunities and the support that can be provided, please contact your local Extension office or visit us online at go.illinois.edu/LMW4H.

Written by: Emily Saddler

Extension's Response to COVID-19

The impact of the COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) continues to create uncertainty and concern both globally and here in our community. Following Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines, the University of Illinois has implemented social-distancing protocols that impact all university events. Illinois Extension, as the outreach program of the university, aligns with all policies related to public health and safety.

University of Illinois Extension has suspended normal office hours at offices including locally Livingston, McLean and Woodford Counties as well as Unity Community Center in Normal. While our staff will still be working, they will largely be doing so remotely.

Effective immediately, ALL face-to-face events organized by Illinois Extension have been canceled, suspended, or transitioned to online delivery. This will apply to all events previously scheduled through May 31, 2020.

A collection of resources to assist families and community leaders preparing for and coping with COVID-19 is available online at <u>go.illinois.edu/ExtensionCOVID19resources</u>.

If you have any questions about events, please check our website at go.illinois.edu/LMW.





SEASONAL 4-H NEWSLETTER

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Staying Connected

As you are aware, 4-H club meetings cannot continue to meet in person until further notice, but...that doesn't mean you couldn't meet virtually.

What does that look like? How do I do that? Below are some user friendly and free options that would allow you, IF CLUBS CHOOSE, to meet virtually. We encourage you to take a look at these platforms, work with your leaders and officers and see if any of these might be an option.

- **Zoom** participants can sign up for free with a Google or Facebook account.
- **Google Hangouts** participants will need a Google account, which is free to sign up for.
- <u>Microsoft Teams</u> another option but requires everyone participating to be able to link to a Microsoft account. If you have a school e-mail, you should be able to create an account for free through your school e-mail.
- Skype Free, but will require participants to download the application onto their phone and/or PC.

Other activities to consider:

- <u>Talks/Demos</u> Have youth record their talk/demo and send it out to the club for viewing. Consider doing this during your virtual club meeting time OR post it to your club Facebook page (if you have one). This can allow for questions and feedback as well.

 *** Please make sure your Facebook pages are set as a "closed group" or have photo/video release forms signed.
- <u>Virtual Tours</u> Many of our clubs would normally be taking part in an upcoming farm tour. Instead of canceling the event, why not have each location film a video and then submit that to the club members/Facebook page?
- <u>Community Service</u> We can still serve our communities, even from afar. Consider having a few members film a cheery get well message from your club that can be sent via email or Facebook to a local nursing home, or community residents who are all alone or in isolation.
 - * Non-virtual Have families make cards or care packages that can be mailed/delivered as well.

Again, NONE of this is required, but simply ideas for how our clubs can still stay connected! Under the circumstances, we will have grace this year with the 3 meetings/4-H events requirements in the membership agreement.

Have other ideas? Feel free to share them with us and we'll put the word out!

We are continuing with our 4-H Show planning and will let you know immediately if anything changes in regards to that. Of course we are always available by email if you have questions or concerns, but we are also going to try and provide more resources and programs virtually, so please continue to read our weekly emails and our Facebook posts for updates.

Thank you again for always helping us to make the best better, especially during rough times!

Your Livingston, McLean & Woodford County 4-H Staff









WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND LIVINGSTON, MCLEAN & WOODFORD?



Keeping up with the Travels of our Livestock Judging Team! Join our Livingston, McLean, & Woodford County 4-H Team in 2020!

The Livingston, McLean & Woodford County 4–H Livestock Judging Team worked hard in preparing to compete at the National Western Stock Show in Denver, CO. The team earned the opportunity by finishing 2nd in last year's Illinois State 4–H Livestock Judging Contest. The team finished 7th overall with a 3rd in the sheep division, tied for 5th in reasons, 6th in the swine division, and 9th in the cattle division. Individually, Skye Schumaker finished 5th in Sheep and 18th overall. Garrett Rhode finished 13th overall.

The team's awesome results were just part of an amazing experience for the teammates. Through the support of University of Illinois Extension and 4–H as well as community supporters, the opportunity to compete at the National Western Stock Show also allowed the team an additional experience of traveling and visiting livestock operations between Bloomington and Denver. The team and coaches are grateful to all of the farms and ranches that opened their doors to allow our youth to learn and practice their skills. On the way to Colorado, the team was able to visit a feedlots, farms and ranches of all species including sheep, goats, swine, and a few cattle operations across Iowa, Nebraska, and Colorado and specifically on location at Colorado State University. First time experiences for some of the team included a view of the mountains and seeing large scale cattle and sheep feedlots in person.



Photo Caption: 2020 Livingston, McLean & Woodford Livestock Judging Team at the National Western Stock Show Judging Competition Pictured (L – R): Skye Schumaker, Emerson Tarr, Preston Rhode, Garrett Rhode, Ty Drach, Brian Clapp, Lauren Mohr, and Chloe Boitnott.







Though the livestock and operations were incredible, perhaps most impressive on the journey was the chance to interact with professionals in the livestock industry. These individuals allowed the team to practice their judging skills in their livestock operations and shared their passion for the industry. The Livingston, McLean & Woodford County Livestock Judging Team is coached by Jesse Faber and Treavor Taylor.

Are you already a member of the Livestock Judging Team or plan join this year? Don't forget to go into your 4HOnline profile and add this as one of your 4-H Clubs! If you are in McLean or Woodford County, you will need to add Livingston County as a secondary county in order for this club option will show up for you. Please contact your local Extension Office and 4-H staff for assistance or questions!

New Training/Certification Required for Livestock Exhibitors beginning 2019-2020

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). It will replace former specific trainings: PQA and QAEC. This program is the industry-standard certification. The training must be completed each year and local Extension offices will offer the training.



Horses, dogs, 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.



Contact 4-H Staff at your local Extension office with questions and be on the lookout for updates in weekly emails!









WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND LIVINGSTON, MCLEAN & WOODFORD?



Need Help Brainstorming 4-H Project Ideas? 4-H Staff is here to share!

The 4-H staff would like to share some of the projects that they have done when we were in 4-H ourselves! Below are pictures of many projects that were done over the years! Although project areas and rules may be a bit different, we hope this inspires youth to have fun while working on 4-H projects.



Project Area: Paper



Project Area: Visual Arts - Metal



Project Area: Clay



Project Area: Clay





Project Area: Carbon/Chalk/Pigment



Project Area: Dog Costume



Project Area: Clay







WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND LIVINGSTON COUNTY 4-H?



Spread Your Wings and Follow Our Butterfly Program

Every spring, Livingston County 4-H ventures into 4th grade classrooms for a session of learning all about butterflies. Since schools are closed and we are unable to complete the classroom program, we are trying something a little different this year.

We'll be hosting a virtual butterfly program! Learners of all ages are welcome! Some of the things you can expect include:

- Exploring the life cycle of the butterfly
- Investigating different types of butterflies
- Observing a cup of caterpillars as they grow and change into butterflies
- And much more!

The fun starts on April 20, so don't miss an episode! Hop on Facebook, follow Livingston County 4-H, and share will all of your friends. We'll also send out links to our YouTube channel so you can catch all of the action. <u>YouTube: UIExtensionUnit12</u>



Ready, Set, Go...Time to Start Those 4-H Projects

Are you looking for something to do while you're at home (besides your homework)? Now is a great time to start working on your 4-H projects for the 4-H Show. The Livingston County 4-H Show Book is in it's last stages of review and should be posted online soon. Check out the 4-H Show Book online at **go.illinois.edu/Livingston4H** for more information on exhibit requirements. If you have question, please do not hesitate to reach out to 4-H Staff. We are here to help! We can't wait to see what you'll accomplish this year!

















Senior Spotlights are Coming!

The spring semester is an important time for our high school graduates and although the COVID-19 is putting a damper on many of the traditional milestones and celebrations, we'd like to do something special to honor you. Livingston County 4-H would like to spotlight our graduating seniors.



If you'd like to share your achievements and memories with your 4-H family, please contact Sara Attig at sattig@illinois.edu by May 1st!

Are you in 8th grade or above? Join Livingston County 4-H Federation!

If you are a member of Livingston County 4-H, 8th grade and above, get in on the fun and become part of 4-H Federation today! The next meeting is planned for June at the Livingston County Extension Office!

If you are interested, please contact Theresa Schopp at tboat1@hotmail.com









LIVINGSTON COUNTY 4-H



State 4-H Award Winners

Livingston County is proud to announce three of our members received state level awards this spring. While the awards banquet was canceled due to the current health situation, we want to share the outstanding accomplishments of our members. Congratulations, Garrett, Vivienne, and Libby!

Garrett Pratt | Emerald Experience Project Learning



Forrest Fireflies 4-H Club, Graymont Achievers 4-H Club, Gadgets and Gizmos, 4-H Ambassadors, Teen Teachers, Digital Ambassadors

Garrett says that cooperating as a team as he's learned new skills has highlighted his 4-H career. Whether planning and implementing programs, tutoring after school, or teaching as a Teen Teacher, the collaboration leaves a lasting impression. He has served on the design team of the state robotics competition and led workshops in robotics. He has exhibited a wide variety of projects, including horses, swine, sheep, dairy, beef, aerospace, welding, and arts.

"4-H has pushed me out of my comfort zone by providing opportunities for me to speak in front of large audiences, facilitate meetings, and organize and lead events."

EDUCATION & CAREER: Garrett is completing his general studies at Heartland Community College and exploring opportunities in agriculture and engineering.

Vivienne Pratt | Diamond Experience Project Learning



Graymont Achievers 4-H Club, Teen Teachers, Digital Ambassadors, Livestock Judging Team, Atlanta Town & Country 4-H Club

Vivienne's 4-H project work instead just in 4-H. It expands to include the Illinois Beef Expo, Farm Progress Show, and several county fairs. She speaks on livestock issues. Vivienne also serves her community by helping at the nursing home, donating to the Heifer International project, cleaning the fairgrounds, recycling milk lids, and leading workshops on robotics.

"4-H, a place you never outgrow, is about the bonds of family, the challenges to overcome, new friends to support, and mentors who inspire hard work and dedication. The memories I have made will go with me past my days as a member."

EDUCATION & CAREER: Vivienne hopes to own a cattle and horse ranch where at-risk youth can come and grow.

Libby Larkin | Emerald Experience Leadership



Pontiac Power Rockets 4-H Club, Federation, Teen Teachers, Digital Ambassadors, Hunger Ambassadors

Libby has organized three meal packaging events as a Hunger Ambassador and attended the 4-H Hunger Summit. She is a Teen Teacher and Digital Ambassador, which allows her to work closely with younger members. She assists with new member orientation, county learn and fun day, zombie camp, and the club hygiene drive.

"Watching my older brother grow through 4-H has been the greatest incentive to be the best I can be, be involved, and experience everything 4-H has. I wouldn't trade my 4-H memories and experiences for anything."

EDUCATION & CAREER: Libby hopes to be an ag teacher.





WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND MCLEAN COUNTY 4-H?



State 4-H Award Winners

While the awards banquet was canceled due to the current health situation, we want to share the outstanding accomplishments of our McLean County 4-H State Award recipients. Congratulations, Lauren, Taylor and Reagan!



Lauren Mohr, Ardent Tillers -Illinois 4-H Experience Award, Emerald Clover in Leadership

"4-H means more than just head, heart, hands and health. I can have deep, meaningful conversations with people I have just met because I have been put in situations that push me to be better. This organization has taught me to expand my knowledge and skills to be a better citizen and friend to all."



Taylor Sondgeroth , Green Leafers -State 4-H Veterinary Science Award

" 4-H is an outlet for creativity, learning, and gaining experience that I have enjoyed."



Reagan Parks, Home Spun - Illinois Key Award and Leadership, Citizenship, Professionalism Award

"With six older siblings who were in 4-H, I've been surrounded by 4-H my entire life. It's second nature to me; being part of a club, helping out in my community, and serving others. 4-H is simply a way of life for me."

#4HPROUD



Join us for this unique experience!

At <u>go.illinois.edu/LMW_STEAM</u> or on Facebook at <u>www.facebook.com/UofIExtensionMcLeanSTEAM</u>

2020 Senior Spotlight

We want to recognize your accomplishments with a "Senior Spotlight"! Send a senior picture and a brief bio which includes your plans for the future and how 4-H has helped you reach your goal!



Please send to Meg @ mmeeker2@illinois.edu by May 1st!



Virtual "Get Unplugged" 4-H Fishing Fun-Fest - McLean County

A fishing contest designed to get you unplugged, outside and experience the great outdoors! Similar to the state contest going, McLean has an additional contest. You must be a McLean County 4-H member & marked active on 4HOnline. All Illinois Department of Natural Resources fishing regulations must be followed. Submit entries at https://www.ifishillinois.org/. Entries are only accepted for Largemouth Bass and Channel Catfish. Two winners will be announced each week (one largemouth bass entry and one catfish entry) on April 24; May 1; May 8; and May 15. Each winner will receive \$50 worth of new fishing gear! One \$50 prize pack per person maximum. Contact McLean County 4-H Staff with questions.



Prizes Sponsored By: McLean Co. Sportsmen's Association and Wired2Fish.com



Join McLean County 4-H Federation!

If you are a member of McLean County 4-H, 8th grade and above, get in on the fun and contact McLean County 4-H staff today! Next meeting is **Monday, June 22 at 6 p.m.** at the McLean County Extension Office! If you are interested, please contact Kaitlyn Prehoda at kprehoda@illinois.edu.



WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND UNITY COMMUNITY CENTER?



Celebrating Birthdays Like Family

Birthdays are a big deal at Unity Community Center! Every month, youth birthdays are celebrated with a pizza party, birthday bags, and an exuberant rendition of the birthday song! Birthday bags contain a cake mix, candles, frosting, and a fun birthday surprise. Local 4-H members and the surrounding community donate these items to be distributed to Unity youth. Staff birthdays are especially exciting! At Unity, we have many bilingual youth and we get to hear the birthday song sung to us in English and French! Joyeux Anniversaire!



Zoom, Zoom, Zoom!

Unity staff are very excited about their upcoming Zoom meeting with Unity youth and parents! They haven't seen their smiling faces for over two weeks and look forward to reconnecting with families through this innovative technology. What creative ways are you using to stay connected? Share your ideas with us over on our Facebook page by searching <u>@UofIExtensionUnity - Unity Community Center.</u>







WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND WOODFORD COUNTY 4-H?





KATE HENKEL

WOODFORD COUNTY

Emerald Experience Leadership Award

"4-H means leadership, communications, and growth. With all of the opportunities that 4-H presents, I have been able to travel the country, meet new people, and gain many skills and connections that will help me for the rest of my life. I will forever be grateful for everything that 4-H has provided me and has allowed me to do."

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State 4-H Awards

While the awards banquet was canceled due to the current health situation, we want to share the outstanding accomplishments of our Woodford County 4-H State Award recipient. Congratulations, Kate!

Congratulations

Are you in 8th grade or above and looking for even more 4-H? Join Woodford County 4-H Federation!

If you are a member of Woodford County 4-H, 8th grade and above, get in on the fun and contact Woodford County 4-H staff today! If you are interested, please contact Blaine Troyer @ btroy2@illinois.edu.







Stay Connected at Home with 4-H!

Virtual Club Meetings Platform Options

- Zoom
- Google Hangouts
- Skype
- Microsoft Teams
- And more!

Other Fun Ideas

- Virtual Farm Tours
- Online Talks/Demos
- Record Messages for those in isolation

How are you staying connected?

Share in the comments below!

2020 Senior Spotlight

We want to recognize your accomplishments with a "2020 Senior Spotlight"! Send a senior picture and a brief bio which can include your plans for the future and how 4-H has helped you reach your goals!

Please send to Blaine Troyer at btroy2@illinois.edu by May 1st!



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University of Illinois Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment. If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this program, please or contact us. ary) requests are strongly encouraged to allow sufficiant time for meeting your access needs.









2019-2020 ILLINOIS 4-H STATE NEWS AND EVENTS



State Robotics Challenge

Date: TBD Virtual Competition

The state's robotics clubs are encouraged to continue working on their robots until we determine the new date and logistics of a potential online virtual competition. Details including date, format, and registration are expected to be finalized and announced.

 $For up to date information, please visit our Facebook \textit{Group at:} \ \textit{https://www.facebook.com/groups/il4hrobotics} \\$

- · Download the challenge at go.illinois.edu/2020CHALLENGE.
- · Watch the video at youtu.be/lEAv1USEGS8.



NEW: Illinois 4-H Virtual Fishing Fun-Fest

4-H members currently enrolled in Fishing 1, 2, or 3 are eligible to win big this spring! Between **April 17 – May 15** these 4-H members can enter a statewide fishing contest (Fun-Fest) via smartphone. New spinning rod and reel combos will be given away weekly to the longest large-mouth bass and channel catfish entered. The simple contest details can be found on the Illinois 4-H Events Page and Illinois 4-H Facebook page. Contact Curt Sinclair at sinclair@illinois.edu with questions. Stay safe and enjoy the sunshine on the lake!

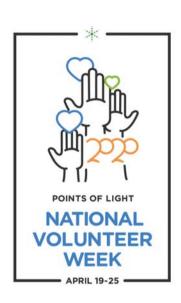


Celebrate 4-H Volunteers - April 19-25

Illinois 4-H will celebrate the more than 11,000 4-H adult volunteers supporting and guiding 4-H members during National Volunteer Week, April 19-25. 4-H volunteers are the caring adults who are empowering and preparing youth for success as 4-H members provide service to others and in their communities. Today's 4-H youth are engaged in diverse learning experiences where they practice skills employers want; grow and distribute food to communities in need; steward our natural resources; identify local issues and initiate positive change in local, state, national, and global issues; and they make and influence positive choices for healthy living. All of these things happen because of engaged volunteers in local communities.

National Volunteer Week is an opportunity to celebrate the impact of volunteer service and the power of volunteers to tackle society's greatest challenges, to build stronger communities and be a force that transforms the world. Each year, we shine a light on the people and causes that inspire us to serve, recognizing and thanking volunteers who lend their time, talent and voice to make a difference in their communities.

National Volunteer Week was established in 1974. Today, as people strive to lead lives that reflect their values, the expression of civic life has evolved. Whether online, at the office, or the local food bank; whether with a vote, a voice, or a wallet – doing good comes in many forms, and we recognize and celebrate them all.



Be a True Leader in Service

April 25 | Nationwide

Join 4-H members and clubs across Illinois and the nation on Saturday, **April 25** as part of True Leaders in Service! 4-H clubs serve their communities all year long however the month of April has been selected as a time for ALL 4-H clubs to join together to roll up their sleeves in service to local communities. In the current COVID-19 situation, it is important that we all follow CDC and safety guidelines, but there are still ways to serve safely and practice social distancing – write and mail cards to those who are socially isolated, organize a group online to teach and share something from your 4-H project, sew PPE masks to donate locally. If you have ideas for a statewide, COVID-safe service project, this is a great opportunity to plan and promote something for others to participate in. Send your ideas to *Illinois4H@illinois.edu*.

Make your plans now on how you'll help others. Find resources @ go.illinois.edu/4Hdayofservice. Later in 2020, you can register your projects there! The goal of the 4-H True Leaders in Service day is to encourage 4-H members in every county to make a positive difference. Service projects can be done by individuals, by 4-H clubs, or as a countywide service project. No matter what the project is, this will be a day to make a difference.



Be sure to share ideas and approved photos to Club and Extension social media pages around April 25th and always!



2019-2020 ILLINOIS 4-H STATE NEWS AND EVENTS



How Strong is your 4-H Family Spirit?

The Illinois 4-H Foundation welcomes nominations for the 2020 4-H Family Spirit Award. The Illinois 4-H Family Spirit Award recognizes a family with at least three generations and at least 15 different family members (including in-laws) that have either been 4-H members, leaders, or volunteers with at least 100 cumulative years of 4-H membership or volunteerism represented within the family. Selection is based on the total number of family members with 4-H connections, the total number of years of 4-H involvement, the diversity of experiences and recognitions earned by the 4-H members, and the collective impact that family members have made as advocates of their county and state 4-H programs. On-line applications are available at:



<u>4hfoundation.illinois.edu/content/family-spirit-award</u>. Nominations are due May 1.

NEW: 4-H State Scholarship Opportunities

The Illinois 4-H Awards program will be expanding for the 2019-2020 program year! We will be offering five \$1,000 scholarships in each of our program areas. More information, applications and training video will be released prior to **May 1st**. The applications will be due **November 1st**. We thank our generous donors and the Illinois 4-H Foundation for providing this opportunity for our members!

NEW: Statewide Leadership Opportunity: Illinois 4-H Food Advocacy Team

The Illinois 4-H State Office is pleased to announce the launch of a new statewide leadership opportunity for Illinois youth seeking to improve food security and food access in their community. The Illinois 4-H Food Advocacy team is a group of teens and young adults from across the state of Illinois who are recognized for their dynamic leadership and who want to increase their impact on the future of food in Illinois. Team members will influence the annual Illinois 4-H Food Action Summit event and provide support for Food Systems programming in Illinois. You will also be eligible for state and nationwide opportunities.

If you're looking for a way to serve your community while strengthening your leadership, communication and advocacy skills, this is the next step for you. Applications, along with one professional reference, are due to the Illinois State 4-H Office by Saturday, **May 2nd, 2020**. For more information please contact Mark Becker <code>mbbecker@illinois.edu</code>, Illinois 4-H Food Systems Specialist. Application Link: <a href="https://go.illinois.edu/Illino

Reminder while youth are out there working on 4-H projects: Understanding Copyright and Trademark Laws

When an author, musician, designer, or artist creates something, it is immediately protected by copyright or trademark laws and other people can't use it or create something similar. Original works such as stories, music, pictures, plays, dances, sculpture, movies, and architecture are protected. 4-H members should use caution when working on a speech, display, or exhibit so you don't use something that doesn't belong to you.

4-H members can't draw or copy someone else's design, logo, words, or music without the permission of the original owner. That means, you can't draw a logo (such as Ford or John Deere) and use it on your exhibit. You can't create Mickey Mouse ears on your cake. You can't draw a Disney princess. You can't put SpongeBob image on your natural resource project exhibit board.

Think of it like this. You wouldn't take your neighbor's bike and ride it around to make your life easier without getting permission first. That would be stealing. When you take words, art, graphics, or photographs that aren't yours but use them like they are, that's stealing, too. Copying them from the internet is the same as stealing them unless you are using a site specifically created for free use of images.

For more information on what's allowed, contact your local 4-H Staff to ensure we are all respecting the rights of others.

4-H COUNTY STAFF LIST Livingston | McLean | Woodford | Unity



<u>Livingston County Extension Office</u> 1412 S. Locust Street, Pontiac, IL 61764 | (815) 842-1776

Sara Attig | 4-H Program Coordinator | sattig@illiniois.edu Cindy Kinate | Office Support Staff | ckinate@illiniois.edu

<u>McLean County Extension Office</u> 1615 Commerce Parkway, Bloomington, IL 61704 | (309) 663-8306

Kaitlyn Prehoda | 4-H Program Coordinator | kprehoda@illinois.edu Meg Meeker | 4-H Program Coordinator | mmeeker2@illinois.edu Maggie Roberts | 4-H Program Coordinator STEAM | maggielr@illinois.edu Rosemarie Carter | Office Support Staff | rcarter1@illinois.edu

<u>Woodford County Extension Office</u> 109 East Eureka Avenue, Eureka, IL 61530 | (309) 467-3789

Blaine Troyer | 4-H Program Coordinator | btroy2@illinois.edu Samantha Klumb | Office Support Staff | klumb@illinois.edu

<u>Unity Community Center</u> 632 Orlando Avenue, Normal, IL 61761 | (309) 663-8270

Laura Holland | 4-H Program Coordinator - Unity & Metro | laurarh3@illinois.edu Afiwa TETE | 4-H Program Coordinator | amensanh@illinois.edu

4-H Educator

Alcha Corban 4-H Educator - Livingston & Woodford Counties acorban@illinois.edu

<u>University of Illinois Extension County Director</u>

Bobbie Lewis-Sibley bjlewis@illinois.edu

