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**Illinois Extension**  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

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



**THE COUNTDOWN IS ON!**

We can't believe the fair is almost here!

After being asked what we're most excited about this year, Abbie is most looking forward to seeing all of you! She can't wait to connect with old and new 4-H friends. Lynda is looking forward to seeing the creative ideas the new project areas spark and all of the other fun things we have planned for the fair such as the "No Cook/No Bake" contest and many more. See the Show Book for more details!

We hope this newsletter will help answer your fair questions and get you as excited as we are! See you there!

*Abbie & Lynda*

**IMPORTANT DATES**

- JUNE**
- June 24 - Prepare for Fair Workshop
- JULY**
- July 1 - FairEntry closes  
July 11 - Horse Show Meeting  
July 15 - Deadline for YQCA and QAEC completion  
July 17 - Clothing and Textiles judging  
July 21 - Creative Writing submissions due via email  
July 26 - Fair Set-Up  
July 28, 29, 30 - Tazewell County 4-H Show and Junior Fair
- AUGUST**
- August 9 - Tazewell State Fair Day





# GENERAL INFORMATION



**YOUTH & ADULTS WELCOME!**

JUNE 24, 2025 | 6PM | TAZEWEILL BRANCH OFFICE

## PREPARE FOR FAIR WORKSHOP

Are you new to 4-H? Will this be your first time taking a project to the fair? The Prepare for Fair Workshop might be for you! All new and returning 4-H families are invited to attend! Learn more about what to expect from the fair, how project judging works, what the different ribbons mean, and much more. This workshop is for parents/guardians and youth planning to attend and/or take a project to the fair this year. Parents will hear from 4-H Coordinators about fair details and youth 4-H members will get practice talking to a judge about a project. We hope to see you there!

Prepare for Fair Workshop

Tuesday, June 24, 2025

6:00 PM

U of I Extension, Tazewell Branch

1505 Valle Vista Blvd, Pekin

## FAIRENTRY VS Z-SUITE

4-H enrollment has come to an end for the 24-25 4-H year, which means it's time to dive into FairEntry! FairEntry is where 4-H families will sign up for specific project classes. Project class numbers and descriptions of each project can be found in the Show Book, so make sure to get yours soon! Unfortunately, Z-Suite and FairEntry do not do the same things and do not share information. **In order to show at the fair, 4-Hers must enroll in Z-Suite AND sign up in FairEntry. All 4-Hers wishing to show at the fair must have their final project selections chosen in FairEntry no later than July 1, 2025.** FairEntry opened on May 15. Abbie and Lynda recommend getting this out of the way as soon as you can! Get started at [fairentry.com](https://fairentry.com)!



## BOOK ICON



You may have noticed a little something different when flipping through the 2025 Show Book. Projects that require the use of a project manual will be marked by a round book icon. We hope this will make it easier to identify which projects do and don't need a project manual. To request project manuals, see the article on page 3!

## STILL NEED A SHOW BOOK?

The show book is a fantastic tool for learning exactly what is required for each project at the fair. Abbie and Lynda highly recommend reading your project descriptions to make sure you are successful at the fair. The descriptions of each project are also what is required for a project to make it to the state fair.

Though it is recommended that 4-Hers choose a project area and make a project to fit the descriptions, you may already have a project in mind! If you're having trouble finding which class your project might fit, don't hesitate to reach out to Abbie or Lynda!

Do you still need a Show Book? Feel free to stop by the Extension office to get a printed copy! You can also follow the link or scan the QR code below to access this year's show book digitally.



[extension.illinois.edu/sites/default/files/2025tazewell4-hshowbook.pdf](https://extension.illinois.edu/sites/default/files/2025tazewell4-hshowbook.pdf)

## CLUB SPIRIT DISPLAY CONTEST

We want to celebrate and show off all of the amazing things our clubs do each year! In order to showcase these things, Lynda and Abbie are challenging each club to create a display at the 4-H Show to share what you've been up to this year. How you go about showcasing your club is entirely up to your club, so get creative! This is your chance to tell everyone about your fundraisers, field trips, and much more. The only rule is that your display must include this year's 4-H theme which is "There's no place like 4-H".

There will be a traveling trophy awarded to the best display for your club to personalize and pass on to next year's winning club.



# GENERAL PROJECT SHOW



## !! GENERAL SHOW CHANGES !!

This year, the general show judging times will look a little different. **All general projects will be judged on Monday, July 28 at 9 am. This includes Cloverbuds projects, Foods and Nutrition, Aerospace, and Photography. 4-Hers should plan to have their project checked in with their departments no later than 11am on Monday.** Upon checking in, exhibitors will be assigned a judging time. Exhibitors should plan to arrive for their judging time slot about 10 minutes before.

Quick Tip! Abbie and Lynda recommend that each 4-Her writes down their judging times on a piece of paper or on their phone. Remember, each project should take about 10 minutes to get judged so plan to leave yourself enough time.

4-Hers that are showing horses and a general show project should plan to get their projects judged as early as possible. Fast passes will still be in use for those showing horses.

## NEW PROJECT LEVEL POLICY

This year when enrolling in Z-Suite, 4-Hers are only allowed one level of a project area. Members are encouraged to select a project level based on their skills in that project. The 4-H curriculum is designed to build on itself, meaning members are encouraged to start at the beginning and work their way through the project levels over their 4-H career.

If you accidentally choose more than one level of a project area, Abbie or Lynda will reach out to help you decide which level is appropriate for you. If you have any questions, let them know!

## CREATIVE WRITING SUBMISSIONS

If you plan to exhibit a Creative Writing project, please don't forget that you will need to email your project to Abbie (abbiep@illinois.edu) or Lynda (lrs11@illinois.edu) **no later than the end of the day on July 21.** One of them will pass your project on to our judge to read before your judging on Monday, July 28. This ensures that the judge has plenty of time to read through your entry and provide good feedback.



## PROJECT TAG PICK-UP

Each project taken to the fair must have a project tag attached to it so we know who it belongs to. Projects should arrive to the fair on Monday, July 28 with their tags already attached. Your name and project class should be visible. Abbie and Lynda recommend using clear tape or string to fasten your tags to your projects. **Project tags can be picked up from the Extension office beginning on July 21!** If you are unable to pick up your project tags, please feel free to ask your leader or another 4-H friend to get them for you, or ask Abbie or Lynda to send them to you in the mail. The Extension office will also be open late on Tuesday, July 22 until 7:30 pm. Abbie and Lynda will be in a meeting with the superintendents and leaders, but the door will be open and tags will be set out just inside the door for you to pick-up. Any remaining tags will be brought to Fair Set-Up day on July 26.

Extension office hours: 8 am- 4:30 pm, closed from noon - 1 pm for lunch.



## PROJECT MANUAL REQUESTS

The Extension office keeps an inventory of project manuals on hand for you to request at no cost to you. Requests for manuals can be made through the form linked below or on your dashboard in Z-Suite. Once Lynda or Abbie have received your request for books, they will fill your request as soon as we can. After your request has been filled, one of them will email to let you know they're ready to be picked up at the Extension office. If a book is only available in a free PDF version, the request system will automatically send you a copy.

Extension office hours: 8 am- 4:30 pm, closed from noon - 1 pm for lunch.

Project Manual Request:  
[go.illinois.edu/fmptPubs](https://go.illinois.edu/fmptPubs)





# LIVESTOCK AND HORSES



## HORSE SHOW MEETING

If you are planning to show a horse at the fair this year, we invite you to join us for a horse show meeting. At this meeting, you'll hear details about the horse show and we'll make sure all exhibitors are in the correct show classes. We hope to see you there!

Horse Show Meeting  
Friday, July 11, 2025  
6:00 PM

Tazewell County Extension Auditorium  
1505 Valle Vista Blvd, Pekin



## YQCA AND QAEC



Do you plan to show an animal at this year's fair? Make sure to **complete the appropriate trainings by July 15, 2025** in order to show your animal at the fair this year!

4-Hers wishing to show **beef, dairy cattle, swine, sheep, or goats** must complete the **yearly** Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) training in order to be eligible to show at the fair. 4-Hers should plan to do the training online, and can do so at [yqcaprogram.org](http://yqcaprogram.org) for a fee of around \$12.

4-Hers wishing to show **horses, rabbits, poultry, dogs, and cats** must complete their Quality Assurance and Ethics Certification (QAEC) **once** in their 4-H career in order to show at the fair. This certification can be completed for free on the Clover Academy tab on Z-Suite. Go to [4h.zsuite.org](http://4h.zsuite.org) to get started!

## SHOWING ANIMALS AT STATE FAIR?

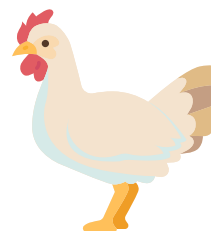
Are you planning to show livestock or horses in the Illinois State Junior Shows? If you are, don't forget that all entries need to be made in ShoWorks. This year, registration for the Junior Horse Show will also be through ShoWorks. **Registration for the horse show should be completed by July 1 while other livestock should be registered by July 15.** Please be sure to review all State Fair guidelines as well as animal identification and health requirements. Don't hesitate to ask Abbie or Lynda if you have any questions!

Get started at this link today!

<https://statefair.illinois.gov/competitions/competitive-events/livestock-events.html>

## POULTRY SHOW IS A GO!

Earlier this month, the Illinois Department of Agriculture lifted the restrictions on Poultry exhibitions, meaning we are able to have a poultry show as normal this year! While this is the case, Illinois 4-H is asking us to keep in mind the risks related to illness, or any symptoms associated with avian influenza. We want to protect our livestock and the public from any potential transmission. For more information and to stay up-to-date on current guidance, please refer to the IDOA website: <https://agr.illinois.gov/animals/animalhealth/highly-pathogenic-avian-influenza.html>



## PULLORUM TESTING

Hoerr Veterinary Services in Morton has graciously offered Pullorum testing once again for 4-H members planning to show chickens this year. They have set aside Thursday, July 10 from 5 - 7pm for Tazewell 4-H. If you plan to take this opportunity to get testing out of the way, please be sure to call Hoerr to confirm an appointment time during that window and let them know you are a 4-H member. Their phone number is 309-266-8444.

As a quick reminder, these are the guidelines on Pullorum testing as outlined in the Show Book:

*Poultry less than one year of age must come from a Pullorum-Typhoid clean hatchery OR an NPPI certified flock OR have a negative Pullorum-Typhoid test within 90 days prior to the fair. Poultry one year old or older must have a negative Pullorum-Typhoid test within 90 days prior to the fair (unless your flock is NPPI certified).*

*\*\*\*Waterfowl, pigeons, and doves are exempt from this requirement.*





# 2025 4-H SHOW SCHEDULE



DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
July 1	11:59 PM	FairEntry registration deadline	<a href="https://faireentry.com">faireentry.com</a>
July 15	11:59 PM	YQCA/QAEC deadline	-
July 17	4:30 PM	Clothing and Textiles judging	Tazewell Extension office Auditorium
July 21	11:59 PM	Creative Writing submissions due	See page 31 of show book for details
July 26	8:00 AM	Show set-up	Mineral Springs Park, Pekin
July 28	7- 10 AM	Swine, Poultry, Sheep and Rabbit check-in	Livestock barns
	9 AM	Horses must be present on fairgrounds	Horse barn
	9 AM - Noon	Conference judging interviews begin for ALL general projects	Cultural Exhibit Hall (Parkside Tennis Courts)
	9:30 AM	Horses must be checked-in, Veterinarian Check	Horse barn
	10 AM	Swine, Poultry, Sheep and Rabbit must be present with health papers turned in	Livestock barns
	Noon	Horse Show begins	Livestock Review Building
	Noon - 1 PM	General Project judging lunch break	Cultural Exhibit Hall
	1 - 3 PM	General Project judging resumes	Cultural Exhibit Hall
	5 PM	Horse Grand Entry General project displays open to the public ( <i>or once final interviews have concluded</i> )	Livestock Review Building Cultural Exhibit Hall
	6 PM	Tazewell Farm Bureau Ice Cream Social Fashion Review	Veteran's Memorial Arena
	7 PM	Grand Opening, Jr Fair Royalty Contest, Decorated Cake Auction	Veteran's Memorial Arena
	7 - 10:30 AM	Beef and Goat check-in, (Dairy opt. check-in)	Livestock Barns
July 29	8 AM	Poultry Show	Poultry and Rabbit Barn
	Noon - 3 PM	Dairy Check-In	Cattle Barn
	1:30 PM	Goat Show	Livestock Review Building
	4 PM	Dog Show Rocket Launch	4-H Shelter
	6 PM	Livestock Parade, General Awards Presentation	Livestock Review Building
July 30	8 AM	Swine Show	Livestock Review Building
	9: 30 AM	Dairy Show Cat Show	Livestock Review Building Veteran's Memorial Arena
	11 AM	Beef Show	Livestock Review Building
	1 PM	Sheep Show <i>*Master Showmanship to follow</i>	Livestock Review Building
	2:30 PM	Rabbit Show	Poultry and Rabbit barn
	5 PM	State Fair Orientation	Veteran's Memorial Arena
	6 PM	Youth Project Auction	Livestock Review Building
	7 PM	General projects dismissed, show clean-up begins	Mineral Springs Park, Pekin



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University of Illinois Extension  
Fulton - Mason - Peoria - Tazewell Unit  
Tazewell County Branch Office  
1505 Valle Vista Blvd  
Pekin, IL 61554

**Return Service Requested**

## DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SHARE?

If you have something to share, we'd love to include you in our quarterly newsletter, whether it's praise for a job well-done, an announcement for a local event, or something else you'd like to share with our Tazewell County 4-H friends and families. Send in your submissions to Abbie ([abbiep@illinois.edu](mailto:abbiep@illinois.edu)) or Lynda ([lrs11@illinois.edu](mailto:lrs11@illinois.edu)).

## TAZEWELL COUNTY 4-H STAFF

**Abbie Phillips**, 4-H Program Coordinator

**Lynda Sharp-Lower**, 4-H Program Coordinator

**Earl Allen**, County Director

**Julann Schierer**, Office Support



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