



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

## Dear 4-H Families,

Happy New Year!!

Does anyone else feel like 2023 is just moving right along? Yes, I realize we haven't even made it out of January, but time keeps moving on by. I have a running list of all the things I need to get done, but I am beginning to think some of these things are going to have to wait until February before I can check them off. And I want to check them off!

What's on your to do list? Perhaps something in this newsletter will spark an interest for you! There are lots of upcoming opportunities in 4-H that just need YOU!

Katharine Girone

Tazewell 4-H Program Coordinator

*Katharine*

## Important Tazewell 4-H Deadlines

**March 1, 2023:** 4-H General Enrollment—Anyone planning to enroll in the Tazewell 4-H program must complete their online enrollment and pay their program fee by March 1 in order to be eligible to register for the 4-H Show exhibit opportunity. ALL projects must be selected at this time! You can find the complete offering of projects at [https://issuu.com/illinois4h/docs/6.28\\_project\\_guide\\_21-22\\_latest\\_version-proofed](https://issuu.com/illinois4h/docs/6.28_project_guide_21-22_latest_version-proofed).

**April 15, 2023:** Horse & Pony ID & Lease Forms—Tazewell County 4-H members planning to exhibit their horse/pony at the 4-H Show and Jr. Fair are required to complete an ID form and Ownership or Lease papers and turn in a copy of their current Coggins test to the Extension office by April 15. Packets will be mailed out to members after March 1.

**July 1, 2023:** 4-H Show Registration—ALL Tazewell County 4-H members planning on exhibiting at the 2023 Tazewell 4-H Show & Jr. Fair will need to register for their eligible exhibit opportunities by July 1.

## Public Speaking Contest

The Tazewell County 4-H Public Speaking Contest will take place on Monday, April 3 at 5:30 p.m. in the Tazewell County Farm Bureau auditorium. Members enrolled in this project will be contacted directly with specific details. *This is the ONLY exhibit opportunity for those in the Public Speaking project, so be sure to save the date, if you wish to participate.*

The Illinois State 4-H Public Speaking Contest is Saturday, April 29.

## Program Fees Due!

Your \$20 per member annual 4-H Program Fee must be paid before I will accept your enrollment!!



You may pay via card through ZSuite, mail a check, or drop off payment at the U of I Extension office. Checks should be made out to University of Illinois.

Also, we still offer the "Family Discount". Each youth member in your family after the third is free.

Payment needs to be received by March 1.

## 2023 Steer Tattoo & Weigh In



Steer Tattoo and Weigh In is scheduled for Saturday, February 4 at 11 a.m. at Green Prairie Animal Hospital in San Jose. All those planning to exhibit steers at the Illinois State Fair must have the animal weighed and tattooed before February 28.

Tazewell, Mason and Logan County 4-H are all weighing in on the same day. The schedule is very tight. **It is critical that anyone needing steers weighed, contact Katharine to RSVP.** The backup date due to inclement weather is set for Saturday, February 11 at 11 a.m..

## FEDERATION NEWS

### February Meeting

Thursday, February 9 at 6:30 PM  
Illinois Extension, Pekin

Activity will be Cupcake Battles.

Federation is a county-wide 4-H Club open to 4-H members who are 13 (4-H age) and up (you are required to be a member in another 4-H Club, too). The group meets throughout the year (typically once a month) and is involved in a variety of leadership and service opportunities, while making new friends from around the county.

### Superintendents Needed!

We are in need of several Superintendents for the 2023 4-H Show! Departments include: Crops and Mechanical Sciences. Please let Katharine know if you are interested or know of someone who is!



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### Unit 4-H Staff

In our four-county Extension unit, a team works together to provide 4-H programming. Each county has an individual 4-H program plus we all work together on unit-wide events and program planning.

#### Krista Gray

4-H Program Coordinator, Fulton County

#### Joli Pierson

4-H Program Coordinator, Mason County

#### Kristi Smith

4-H Program Coordinator, Peoria County

#### Katharine Girone

4-H Program Coordinator, Tazewell County

**Emily Schoenfelder**, 4-H Youth Educator

**Judy Schmidt**, Metro 4-H Youth Educator

**Earl Allen**, County Director

**Deb Balagna**, Fulton County Office Support

**Paula Lane**, Mason County Office Support

**Angela Sassine**, Peoria County Office Support

**Julann Schierer**, Tazewell County Office Support

## 4-H Events

### January

28—Clovers Around the Counties: Kitchen Adventures Workshop, 10 a.m.

### February

4—Beef Weigh In & Tattooing, San Jose

9—Federation, 6:30 p.m., Pekin

15—Senior Profile submission deadline

18—Clovers Around the Counties: Visual Arts & Interior Design Workshops, 8:45 a.m.

20—Clovers Around the Counties: Livestock Workshops, 8:30 a.m.

23—Leader & Superintendent meeting, 7 p.m.

### March

1—Enrollment deadline for 2023 4-H Show eligibility

11—Clovers Around the Counties: Geology & Gardening w/ Pollinators Workshops, 10 a.m.

18—Clovers Around the Counties: Rabbits & Poultry Workshops, 10 a.m.

25—Clovers Around the Counties: Food Decorating Workshop, 9 a.m.

### April

3—Public Speaking Contest, 5:30 p.m.

15—Horse Lease/ID papers due

### July

1—4-H Show Entries due

Early July—Clothing & Textile Judging, TBA

29—4-H Show set up in the morning

31—4-H Show

### August

1—4-H Show

2—4-H Show & clean up in evening

13—Tazewell's Day at Illinois State Fair

### Horse SPIN Club

Do you know someone who is horse-crazy and wants to learn all about horses and equine science topics? We have the perfect special interest club for them! Youth do NOT need a horse join this fun, equine group, while preparing for Horse Bowl, Hippology, and horse judging contests.

The group is meeting weekly on Mondays at 4 p.m. in the Boynton Townhall and runs through April. Feel free to invite/bring a friend along! RSVP via text (preferred) or call Vera Betzelberger at 309-231-6375.

#### COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, CONSUMER, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

University of Illinois | U.S. Department of Agriculture | Local Extension Councils Cooperating University of Illinois Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment. If you need reasonable accommodation to participate in this program, please call 309-347-6614. Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the US Department of Agriculture by the Director, Cooperative Extension Service, and University of Illinois.

## High School Senior Profiles

If you are graduating from high school during the 2022-2023 4-H year, then I want to celebrate YOU! Please send a Senior Picture to be included in the 2023 4-H Show Book. I would prefer an electronic version of your photo, but I can make a hard copy work, too.

Please include the following information:

Name

4-H Club(s) – (include county clubs as well as State committees)

If you have had a project focus or favorite project, what is it?

In a short description describe **ONE** of the following:

- Something you learned during your years in 4-H
- A favorite 4-H memory
- Advice to younger 4-Hers
- What are your plans for next year?
- Are there any 4-H volunteers you would like to thank publicly?

Deadline is Wednesday, February 15, 2023.

## Leader & Superintendent Meeting

Thursday, February 23, 7 p.m.

Tazewell County Farm Bureau, Pekin

Agenda includes: 4-H Show discussion, recommendations for department changes in show book, upcoming youth development opportunities, State Fair changes (general and livestock), and general updates.

## Leaders, Secretaries, & Treasurers

4-H Secretary and Treasurer

Books are available online in a writable format. If you need a printed copy, contact Katharine.

The resources can be found at

<https://4h.extension.illinois.edu/library/club-resources>



## Requesting 4-H Project Manuals

If you need any 4-H project manuals, please complete a request at [go.illinois.edu/FMPTPubs](https://go.illinois.edu/FMPTPubs). Once I have filled your request, you will be emailed, and can pick it up in the office. This request system will automatically email you any free, downloadable project resources when you select those items through the site.

## 4-H Quest Club Report

On January 10, the 4-H Quest Club met at the Midwest Food Bank, a warehouse dedicated to storing food and disaster supplies. They can ship supplies at a moment's notice to food pantries in places of need. MFB often services locations within the U.S. suffering from weather related disasters, but has extended to other countries, such as Haiti and East Africa.

For two and half hours, the club worked hard and successfully filled and sealed 155 boxes of Tender Mercies, with each box containing fifty individual bags of the Tender Mercies rice and bean recipe. Considering each bag contains enough rice to feed a family of four, this effort alone is predicted to feed as many as 31,000. These packages will be sent to communities in need.

Midwest Food Bank is fueled largely by volunteer work, both as individuals and in groups. Check out their website for more information.

*Article by 4-H Quest Club Reporter, Joshua Gay.*

## In Memory—Elizabeth “Liz” Meier

On December 5, 2022, we unexpectedly lost one of our beloved 4-H Superintendents. Liz Meier lived to serve others through her profession as a registered nurse with OSF and through all her service work in the community.

While she was a prominent figure in the Morton Pumpkin Festival, Tazewell 4-H was lucky and blessed to have Liz and her mother, Kathy, in our Foods Department. Never one to shy away from hard work, Liz gave her all to everything she did. She strived to keep her mother's memory alive by continuing to serve in the department after Kathy's passing in 2020.

Known for her infectious laugh and smile, big heart, and crazy bear hugs, Liz will be missed by all of those that knew her. We were fortunate Liz was part of our Tazewell 4-H family and she will be greatly missed.



*From left to right: Barb Ricketts, retired Foods Superintendent with current Foods Superintendents, Liz Meier and her mother, Kathy Meier, at the 2017 Tazewell 4-H Show.*



## News from Illinois 4-H

### 4-H Camp Registration



**2023 Summer Youth Camp** at 4-H Memorial Camp is coming soon! Online registration for 4-H Club members will begin on Jan 23. Registration will open for non 4-H Club members on Feb 6. Visit [4h.extension.illinois.edu/event/4-h-memorial-camp/4-h-summer-camp-programs](https://4h.extension.illinois.edu/event/4-h-memorial-camp/4-h-summer-camp-programs) for details.

While you're there, be sure to check out information on Spring Family Camp & Camp Corral. Plus older teens and young adults can check out the amazing summer job opportunities camp has to offer at [4h.extension.illinois.edu/events/4-h-memorial-camp/employment-opportunities](https://4h.extension.illinois.edu/events/4-h-memorial-camp/employment-opportunities).

### 4-H FOOD ACTION SUMMIT



### JOIN US FOR THE 2023 FOOD ACTION SUMMIT -

The Illinois 4-H Food Action Summit is where leaders meet to be inspired and share a vision for food security, food access, and food justice in Illinois. University of Illinois researchers, non-profit professionals, food advocates, and civic leaders will facilitate workshops designed to empower young people with the knowledge, confidence, and resources they need as they work to create food security in their communities.

Learn more or register at: <https://go.illinois.edu/4HFoodActionSummit>. Contact: Mark Becker, 4-H Food Systems Specialist - [mbecker@illinois.edu](mailto:mbecker@illinois.edu)

Spark your imagination and passion! **Ignite by 4-H** is an inclusive teen event held in Washington, D.C., Mar 9-12, for four days of inspiring and engaging panels, respected speakers, workshop sessions,

entertainment, and creating amazing connections. Illinois 4-H is looking for fifteen youth delegates to represent Illinois at this one-of-a-kind national event! Discover exciting career paths and create an actionable plan to help create real change in your community. It's an experience you won't want to miss! Age range for delegates is 14-19 years old. Ready to apply? Head to [go.illinois.edu/national4hyouthsummit](https://go.illinois.edu/national4hyouthsummit) before Jan 25!



### Digital Ag Workshop Series

In collaboration with the University of Illinois Center for Digital Agriculture, the Department of Animal Sciences, and the Department of Crop Sciences, Illinois 4-H will be hosting virtual learning sessions focused on Digital Ag for High School students. **Sessions will meet Mondays on Zoom from 7-8:30 pm CST on the following dates:** Jan 30, Feb 27, Mar 27, Apr 24, June 5 & 26, July 3 & 10

**Applications are due Wed, Jan 25, 2023. For more info or registration, visit:**

[go.illinois.edu/4HDigAgWorkshops](https://go.illinois.edu/4HDigAgWorkshops)

### 2023 Illinois 4-H Robotics Challenge: HydroBot!

This year's competition will revolve around the work of conservationists and oceanographers. Teams will be tasked with building a HydroBot to accomplish the tasks laid out before you in the Challenge Document and video. The HydroBot Challenge will take place at the McLean County Fairgrounds in Bloomington, IL on Saturday, May 13, 2023. There will be a \$20 Entry fee per team assessed at the time of registration.

**Challenge Download/Documents Folder:**

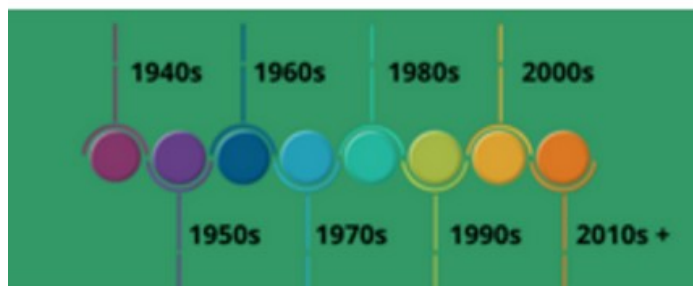
[go.illinois.edu/2023CHALLENGE](https://go.illinois.edu/2023CHALLENGE)

**Register Here before April 14:** [go.illinois.edu/4HR2023](https://go.illinois.edu/4HR2023)

**Challenge Announcement Video Here:**

[go.illinois.edu/234HRVID](https://go.illinois.edu/234HRVID)

# 4-H By the Decades



We are seeking Illinois 4-H History from our 4-H alumni by the decades! Join us to visit about how 4-H impacted your life growing up in the Illinois 4-H program. We will also be seeking photos of special memories, mementos, and awards of each decade to share on a new Illinois 4-H History website to be developed. Share with us your 4-H story! *Sponsored by the Illinois 4-H Alumni Association*

## 4-H BY THE DECADES 1970's

**Tues, January 24, 2023**

Register by Fri, Jan 20:

[form.jotform.com/223465115999164](https://form.jotform.com/223465115999164)

The link will be sent to registered attendees on Mon, Jan 23

## 4-H BY THE DECADES 1980's

**Tues, February 28, 2023**

Register by Fri, Feb 20:

[form.jotform.com/223474513372151](https://form.jotform.com/223474513372151)

The link will be sent to registered attendees on Mon, Feb 27.



The Illinois 4-H Alumni Association will launch a new Illinois 4-H Alumni awards program on **January 9, 2023**. This program will recognize alumni for their individual achievements, contributions to their industry or profession, service to the community, and loyalty to the Illinois 4-H program. To learn more, visit [4h.extension.illinois.edu/alumni/alumni-awards-and-recognition](https://4h.extension.illinois.edu/alumni/alumni-awards-and-recognition).

**Nomination Deadline:** March 1, 2023.



## 4-H SHOOTING SPORTS VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

**2023 4-H Shooting Sports Leader Trainings:**

**Saturday, February 25, 2023**

Kane County Fairgrounds, St. Charles, IL

Disciplines offered: Rifle; Pistol; Archery; Coordinator

**Saturday, May 6, 2023**

4-H Memorial Camp, Monticello, IL

Disciplines offered: Shotgun, Rifle; Pistol; Archery; Coordinator; Hunting/Outdoor Skills

If interested, contact your local University of Illinois Extension office for registration information. These dates are 9-hour "field days" which teach range management. An additional 3-hour on-line 4-H training will complete the certification process. Registration will be open Dec 15, 2022 – Feb 15, 2023. Questions? Contact Curt Sinclair, Illinois 4-H State Office at [sinclair@illinois.edu](mailto:sinclair@illinois.edu)



The Illinois Association of Meat Processors and the University of Illinois Meats Judging are collaborating to continue a youth meat judging series in spring 2023 that is open to all 4-H and FFA youth.

Each invitational is a clinic with more information to come. Mark your calendars for:

Jan 21 at Raber Packing Company in West Peoria

Feb 11 at Eickman's Processing in Seward

Feb 18 at Wenneman meat Company in St. Libory

March 3 is the State 4-H Contest at the University of Illinois

For questions, please contact Jesse Faber at [jfaber@pontiac90.org](mailto:jfaber@pontiac90.org).



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# Clovers the Around Counties

Join us for the exciting new **Clovers Around the Counties Workshop Series** happening this winter! We'll be hosting hands-on workshops in Fulton, Mason, Peoria, and Tazewell counties to help 4-H members, ages 8-18, learn more about the wide array of 4-H projects they can exhibit at the 4-H show. Plus, participants will get a special passport book and collect "stamps" from each workshop they attend. Collect stamps from at least 3 different workshops in 2 different counties to win a special prize! Come learn more about your current passions, explore new possibilities, and make new 4-H friends from around the counties!



## SCHEDULE

### Kitchen Adventures

Sat, Jan 28 | 10am-3:30pm | Tazewell

### Visual Arts & Interior Design

Sat, Feb 18 | 8:45am-1:30pm | Peoria

### Livestock

Mon, Feb 20 | 8:30am-3:30pm | Peoria

### Geology & Gardening with Pollinators

Sat, Mar 11 | 10am & 1pm | Fulton

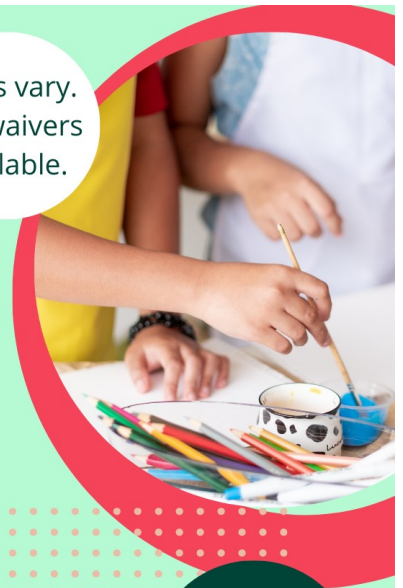
### Rabbits & Poultry

Sat, Mar 18 | 10am & 1pm | Mason

### Food Decorating

Sat, Mar 25 | 9am-12pm | Mason

Costs vary.  
Fee waivers  
available.



Learn more or register at:  
[go.illinois.edu/CATC](http://go.illinois.edu/CATC)