



4-H



NEWSLETTER

November & December 2023

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

Important Tazewell Deadlines

March 1, 2024: 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!

April 15, 2024: 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, 2024: 4-H Show Registration—ALL Tazewell County 4-H members planning on exhibiting at the 2024 Tazewell 4-H Show & Jr. Fair will need to register for their eligible exhibit opportunities by July 1.

Just so you know...

The 2024 Tazewell County 4-H Show & Jr. Fair is July 29, July 30, and July 31.
Illinois State Fair will run August 8-18.
Other dates will be shared as they are released.

Superintendents Needed!

We are in need of a few Superintendents for the 2024 4-H Show! Departments include: Cats, Plants & Soils— Assistant Vegetable Gardening Superintendent, and Crops. Please let Lynda know if you are interested or know of someone who is!

Your Guide to the 4-H Year!

Check out the *Illinois 4-H Project Guide* [online](https://issuu.com/illinois4h/docs/4-h_project_selection_guide_7-17_to_print_2023_1_?fr=xKAE9_zU1NQ) (https://issuu.com/illinois4h/docs/4-h_project_selection_guide_7-17_to_print_2023_1_?fr=xKAE9_zU1NQ) to find all your 4-H projects for this year. If you would like a physical copy of the book, contact Lynda.

Dear 4-H Families,

We are in denial. We cannot be in November already! How did this happen? The holiday seasons are upon us, and there are so many things to do...

But amidst all the busyness, we encourage you to take some time to slow down and read this month. There is an annual statewide event held on the third Thursday in November to encourage families to spend quality time reading together. The next Family Reading Night will be Thursday, November 16, 2023. If you would like more information on this event, be sure to check out the website: https://www.ilsos.gov/departments/library/center_for_the_book/frn.html.

We challenge each and everyone of you to take a few extra minutes and dedicate them to reading. Perhaps, it is a book you've been wanting to pick up, or maybe there's a story the kids have been wanting read aloud. Or maybe this is the push you need to start a book club. Maybe it enrolling in a new 4-H project and starting to read through the project manual. Whatever it is, enjoy it! And if all else fails, you could always start by reading this newsletter!

This edition is full of dates to save, upcoming events, lost items, and a bittersweet goodbye. Really, there's something for everyone!

If we do not happen to see you in the office or out and about, have a wonderful Thanksgiving and a blessed December Holiday season!

Katharine & Lynda

"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more you learn, the more places you'll go."

— Dr. Seuss

Updating 4-H Volunteer Files

In order to remain as active 4-H volunteers, rescreening is required every five years. Volunteers will be sent a mailing with the details and required forms. Please be sure to return everything in a timely manner.

One part of this process is for all Extension volunteers to have a national background check completed by Sterling Volunteers. You will need to respond within 72 hours after receiving the emailed request.

If you receive the mailing and no longer wish to remain an active volunteer, please send Lynda an email, so she can update her active volunteer list.



Illinois Extension
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN



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

Rachel Van Cleve

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

Lynda Sharp-Lower

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

November

23-24—U of I Extension office closed, Thanksgiving
30—Last day for 25% Enrollment discount

December

22-Jan 1—U of I Extension office closed

January

15—U of I Extension office closed, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

February

3—Beef Weigh In, 8 am, Green Prairie Animal Hospital, San Jose
17—Clover Clinic, Spoon River College, Canton

March

1—Enrollment deadline for 2024 4-H Show eligibility
8—Senior Profile submission deadline

April

15—Horse Lease/ID papers due

High School Senior Profiles

If you are graduating from high school during the 2023-2024 4-H year, then we want to celebrate YOU! Please send a Senior Picture to be included in the 2024 4-H Show Book. We would prefer an electronic version of your photo, but we 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 Friday, March 8, 2024.

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.

A Bittersweet Goodbye

As I announced in an email on November 1, my last day as Tazewell County's 4-H Program Coordinator is Friday, November 10. I have been so blessed in the past 7.5 years to have met all of you, engaged with you, and most importantly, watched many of you grow in this amazing program! You are the heartbeat of this program! But alas, my time in the Tazewell County 4-H program has come to an end.

I have accepted a new position within U of I Extension in my home counties, Marshall-Putnam, as an Ag in the Classroom Program Coordinator. I will be providing hands-on agricultural lessons to grade school students and library programs. I am excited to be able to serve the communities I grew up in, and share my love for agriculture with others.

While change is never easy, I know this program will be successful, and I know you will welcome the next 4-H program coordinator with open arms. Lynda Sharp-Lower will continue to be the part-time 4-H program coordinator for the county, so please show her grace and patience as she navigates this change with all of you.

Gosh, you have all made this hard to do, as I have feel like I am leaving a huge family! My heart will always belong to 4-H and Tazewell County, and I am so grateful I have been able to give nearly 8 years back to the organization that shaped me into the individual I am today.

And thank YOU for letting this former 4-Her continue to dream and encourage others to dream! You all hold a special place in my heart!

Katharine



Katharine's Career Stats

I decided it would be fun to pull together some unique statistics about my time in the 4-H program, and share some of the many photos I have captured of this beautiful 4-H family.

- ◆ I have had to learn 4 different enrollment programs. *I know some of you can relate to this.*
- ◆ I have coordinated 8 4-H Shows & Jr. Fairs.
- ◆ Throughout those 8 shows, I have logged somewhere around 500,000 steps total.
- ◆ Worked with 3 wonderful part-time coordinators/summer help; Holly, Bailey, and Lynda.
- ◆ Coordinated a virtual 4-H Show, which was a first for everyone!
- ◆ Drank countless cups of coffee.
- ◆ Nearly two-thirds of my life has been involved in 4-H between my 11 years as a member and almost 8 as staff.
- ◆ I know the Tazewell backroads.
- ◆ Presented half a dozen workshops.
- ◆ Hatched way too many chicks to count. *And this will continue with my new job!*
- ◆ Watched littles grow into Cloverbuds.
- ◆ Watched Cloverbuds become full fledged 4-H members.
- ◆ Watched kids grow up into young adults.
- ◆ Watched families grow with new additions.
- ◆ Laughed more then I ever thought possible.
- ◆ Made more memories then I can count.
- ◆ And made lasting friendships!

Unclaimed 4-H Show Items

While the dust has well settled on the show season, there are couple items leftover from the 4-H Show that need to be claimed. There's a **Compeer camping chair** from the Horse Show, a **plastic storage tote** from the Tennis Courts (left during cleanup), and a **little Lego spear** from the Visual Arts department.

If any of these are yours or you have a family member missing theirs, please let Lynda know, and she will work on returning it to you.



Be Sure to Mail a THANK YOU!

Congratulations to all the award winners at the 4-H Show! Each award is sponsored by a business, individual or family. Without these generous sponsors, no awards would be available.

It is very important that each award winner send a thank you to the sponsor. The sponsor name and information were included with the award. Sponsors appreciate hearing about your 4-H experience, so feel free to make your note personalized.

If you are not sure of the sponsor name or address or need assistance writing a thank you, please contact the U of I Extension office.

Public Speaking Contest

The Tazewell County 4-H Public Speaking Contest will take place in late March in the Tazewell County Farm Bureau auditorium (the exact date is being finalized). Members enrolled in this project will be contacted directly with specific details. The Illinois State 4-H Public Speaking Contest is scheduled for Saturday, April 27.

Clover Clinic Volunteers Needed

Each year, Tazewell 4-H joins Fulton, Mason, and Peoria counties for a huge project workshop day called Clover Clinic. This large regional event will be held on Saturday, February 17 at Spoon River College in Canton. Youth will register to participate in up to 4 different hands-on workshops offered throughout the day.

We are currently in the process of lining up instructors and assistants for the 2024 event. If you are interested in volunteering for one of these roles, please contact Krista Gray, kristakg@illinois.edu or Joli Pierson, jkpierso@illinois.edu.

Class topics and lessons should be hands-on, relatable to a 4-H project or service project, doable for youth 8 to 13 years old, and fit into a 50 minute class. You will offer this class twice, so you can pick either a morning time block or an afternoon block.

If you are interested in teaching, but need help with a project/class idea, contact Krista and/or Joli. We have some specific classes that kids love, for which we need instructors.

Horsin' Around Special Interest Club

Do you know someone who is horse-crazy and wants to learn all about horses? We have the perfect Special Interest Club for them! Youth do not need a horse to join this fun, study group called "Horse Bowl and Hippology".

The group will meet weekly for about three months starting in January 2024 and run through April, while learning different equine science topics and study different reference materials. All to prepare for a Horse-themed quiz bowl game, "Horse Bowl". Members will have a chance to compete at the regional Horse Bowl and Hippology Contest.

If interested, please text/call Vera Betzelberger at 309-231-6375 or verabetzelberger@yahoo.com.



Requesting 4-H Project Manuals

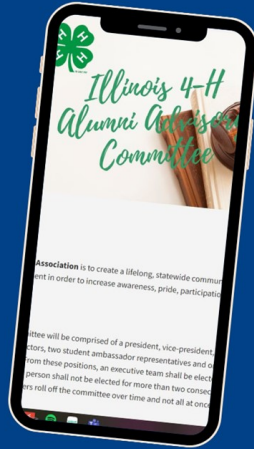
If you need any 4-H project manuals, please complete a request at go.illinois.edu/FMPTPubs. Once I have filled your request, you will be emailed, and can pick it up in the office. This request system will automatically email you any free, downloadable project resources when you select those items through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

HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF OUR ASSOCIATION!



Apply to be a member of
the Illinois 4-H Alumni
Advisory Committee

Applications Due
November 15



Illinois
Extension



Are you 4-H Grown?

The Illinois 4-H Alumni Association seeks talented 4-H alumni leaders to serve on a new Illinois 4-H Alumni Advisory Committee to represent our diverse alumni population, increase alumni engagement, recognize alumni accomplishments, and support the Illinois 4-H Alumni Association's strategic goals. The Illinois 4-H Alumni Advisory Committee will comprise nine regional directors, three young alumni directors, two student ambassador directors, and one Collegiate 4-H ambassador director. The committee will launch this Spring. For more information about the Illinois 4-H Alumni Advisory Committee expectations and to download the nomination form, visit: go.illinois.edu/il4halumniadvisory. Completed applications are due November 15, 2023

Why am I receiving a newsletter?

Wondering why you received this newsletter? Well, somewhere along the way, you requested information about Tazewell's 4-H program. If you need help getting started in 4-H; contact lrs11@illinois.edu.

Or maybe, you've had a child in 4-H. Are they returning to 4-H for the 2022-2023 year? Even 4-H volunteers receive a copy, and need to enroll annually.

These newsletters share upcoming events, opportunities (local, state, and national), tips and assistance, and numerous other resources to 4-H families and volunteers. I highly encourage everyone to take some time to read through them.

If you no longer wish to receive 4-H emails and/or mailings, please email lrs11@illinois.edu to be removed from the contact lists.

CLOVER CLINIC IS COMING!

February 17, 2024

Spoon River College, Canton



4-H Clover Clinic is Back!

Join us for a day of hands-on fun at this multi-workshop event! Youth, ages 8 and up, will be able to pick up to 4 different workshops in a wide variety of exciting topics. Put 4-H Clover Clinic in your calendar for February 17, 2024 – and be on the lookout for more details coming soon!



Ways to Stay Informed!

Thank you for your interest in staying informed about all the great things that 4-H is doing in Fulton, Mason, Peoria, and Tazewell Counties! As you may know, the Illinois 4-H State Office has begun sending information about state and national 4-H opportunities directly to you via email. Due to this change, and our desire to pass along timely and relevant local 4-H info, we've decided to switch our paper newsletters to an Eblast (email newsletter) format beginning in January 2024.

However, we want to be sure that you can still receive 4-H info in a format accessible for you. If you would like us to print the Eblast and mail you monthly hardcopies, please submit your contact info and mailing address at the link below. Additionally, if you are not currently receiving the biweekly 4-H Happenings Eblast, or you would like to add an additional email address to the Eblast list, you can provide that info as well. This will ensure you are on our digital mailing lists moving forward.

Request a hardcopy or add an email address:

[Go.illinois.edu/4-HNewsletter](https://go.illinois.edu/4-HNewsletter)

