

4-H

# NEWSLETTER

October 2023



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



## Dear 4-H Families,

I have to share with you how much I love FALL! There is something so rejuvenating about the crisp air. One can't help but feel refreshed after a warm summer. Plus, pumpkins, apples, and mums are everywhere!

I noticed on my drive into the office the other day, there definitely signs of the changing colors. If I needed a visual confirmation of fall's arrival, I received it! Now, I just have to remember to pack my camera in the mornings...

Anyway, there is so much going on this time of the year. We are a month into the 4-H year, and you will be able to enroll in ZSuite in the upcoming weeks. Clubs are meeting and electing new officers. New leaders are coming forward. There are lots of upcoming ways to be involved with 4-H in and out of the county, so I can't wait to see how you grow in 4-H!

*Katharine*

## 2023-2024 4-H Enrollment opens in October

Due to the rollover process of our 4-H enrollment system, ZSuite, 4-H enrollment is **unavailable** until early October. As soon as the system opens, 4-H members AND volunteers will be able to sign back in to re-enroll OR set up a new account, if joining the system for the first time. More information will be emailed, as it becomes available.

## Federation Kick Off Event

Tuesday, October 17

6:30 p.m.

Tazewell County Farm Bureau office, Pekin

4-H members ages 13-18 are invited to join Federation!

## Introducing... Lynda!

You may have noticed Lynda out at the 4-H Show this summer and around the office, so we wanted make sure we properly introduced her to all of you.



Hello, my name is Lynda Sharp-Lower and I am super excited to get to know you all! I have been employed by University of Illinois Extension as a Special Projects Coordinator in Peoria and Tazewell since January 2022, and in June moved into the role of part-time 4-H Coordinator just in time for the 4-H Fair. Wow! What an experience! I am in love with all things nature and volunteer as a Master Gardener, so it was wonderful to see all of the special exhibits that you completed. You are quite the talented group!

I have 3 grown daughters of my own and a cute little dog named Peanut that my husband and I adore. I hold my Bachelors and Masters degree from Illinois State University and for 30 years was in the social work field before coming to Illinois Extension. Now, that you know me a bit better, please feel free to reach out to me anytime, and I hope to meet you all out in your clubs this year!

Enjoy the upcoming 4-H year and just know that Katharine and I are here to help!

*Lynda*





# Tazewell County 4-H End of the Year Club Paperwork

## Due September 30, 2023

### Annual Financial Statement

All 4-H clubs with a checking or savings account must complete the 4-H Club Annual Financial Statement form at the end of each 4-H year. Submit this statement along with other required forms and officer books to the U of I Extension office by **September 30**.

The financial statement includes a report of income and expenses for the 4-H club checking account and/or savings account. The club treasurer and club leader must sign this form to verify that the information is correct. Also, you must ask a **Fiscal Review Committee (a group of 2 or 3 youth and adults who do not have signatory rights on the club's bank account)** to review the financial records of the 4-H club for the past year and sign to indicate that they have found everything in good order.

Contact the Illinois Extension office if you need a copy of this financial statement. **The up to date form was emailed to you on August 30.** This is a required step from the IRS. Your club cannot be active for the new 4-H year until this is received in the U of I Extension office.

### Treasurer Book

Each 4-H Club is **required** to turn in either a completed Treasurer's Book with a completed audit form OR an Indication of Financial Activity Statement (for clubs without a treasury).



### Secretary Book

All 4-H Clubs are required to turn in a Secretary book for the 2022-2023 4-H year. Books may be typed or handwritten, but must show the past year's club activities, motions, approved financial transactions (if applicable) and any other business conducted by the club.

### September

30 Deadline to turn in Treasurer & Secretary books

### October

- 1-7 National 4-H Week
- 12 New Family Welcome—U of I Extension office, 6 p.m.
- 17 Federation Kick Off—U of I Extension office, 6:30 p.m.

### November

- 4 Club Leader & Officer Training—Pekin, 9:30 a.m.



### 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

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, CONSUMER, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

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# Tazewell Goes to the State Fair!

On Sunday, August 13, 54 Tazewell County 4-H members and their families attended the Illinois State Fair to exhibit their general 4-H projects.

Eight exhibitors earned the title of Class Champion, eight Reserve Champions, four Inspire awards, and 34 Award of Excellence participation ribbons. Fantastic job, everyone!

Hannah Albrecht- Clothing 3-Sewn Clothing- Participant  
Oliver Bade IV- Health 1- Reserve Champion  
Victoria Bade- Food Preservation Combination- Participant  
Lila Baer- Child Development- Participant  
Allison Baer- VA Paper 2D- Participant  
Nora Beutel- Food Decorating-Intermediate- Participant  
Ethan Boecker- Photography 2- Participant  
Lillian Borton- Food Decorating-Beginning- Participant  
Alison Borton- Scrapbooking-Beginning- Participant  
Kaitlyn Boyd- Civic Engagement 2- Participant  
Gracen Diekhoff- Electricity 2- Champion  
Noah Diekhoff- Sportsfishing 2- Reserve Champion  
Keziah Foor- Animal Science 1- Participant  
Francis Foote- Clothing 1-Sewn Clothing- Participant  
Drew Frohberg- Vegetable Plate- Participant  
Donavan Frohberg- Tractor B- Reserve Champion  
Joshua Gay- Poetry- Reserve Champion  
Matthew Gay- Pebble Pups 2- Participant  
Caleb Gerrietts- VA Fiber Non-Orig Age 8-10- Reserve Champion  
Anna Gerrietts- VA Wood- Participant  
Olivia Gerrietts- Sports Nutrition- Inspire  
Charlotte Kalm- Video-Short Story or Narrative- Participant  
Dietrich King- Model Rocketry- Participant  
Regan King- Passport to the World-Indiv- Participant  
Maria Koch- Clothing 2-Sewn Clothing- Inspire  
Eva Koch- Animal Science 1- Participant  
Hanna Koch- VA Fiber- Participant  
Emma Lanz- VA Computer-Generated Art- Participant  
Ainsley Matarelli- VA Clay- Participant  
Kenzie Michel- Woodworking 1- Participant  
Violet Nation- VA Plastic- Participant  
Rose Nation- Model Rocketry- Participant  
Natasha Rose- Design Decisions-Beginning- Inspire  
Lydia Rowell- 4-H Cooking 301-Cake- Participant  
Casen Rummel- Electricity 1- Champion  
Lily Russell- Health 1- Champion  
Kara Russell- Sports Nutrition- Participant  
Tyra Sauder- Child Development- Participant  
Londyn Sauder- Ready4Life-Entrepreneur- Reserve Champion  
Christian Schleich- Floriculture B- Participant  
Maryahna Schleich- Floriculture D- Participant  
Claire Schwarting- Shopping in Style: Beginning- Reserve Champion  
Gus Schwarting- VA Metal- Participant  
Lena Schwarting- Food Preservation Canning- Participant

Clayton Schweigert- Welding- Participant  
Kaydee Sipka- Health 1- Inspire  
Joe Springer- My Financial Future Beginner- Champion  
Katrina Steinlage- Forestry Innovation Class- Champion  
Jillian Steinlage- Fish/Wildlife Innovation Class- Champion  
Graham Walters- Tractor A- Reserve Champion  
Leia Wuthrich- VA 3-D Design/Mixed Media- Champion  
Asher Wuthrich- VA Chalk/Carbon/Pigment-Div A- Participant  
Lana Wuthrich- Leadership 2- Participant  
Mason Zeigler- Video-Commercial or Promotional Video- Champion

## Illinois 4-H Foundation Hall of Fame: 2023 Tazewell County Inductee—Duane Lessen

The Illinois 4-H Hall of Fame recognizes 4-H volunteers that have a track record of exemplary service to 4-H or outstanding career and community achievement and are nominated by either county University of Illinois Extension staff or by the Illinois 4-H Foundation Board.



Duane has been a dedicated leader of the Delavan Aces 4-H Club for 24 years. He goes above and beyond to support his members and their families, including setting them up with lambs for livestock shows. Duane is always present during the Tazewell 4-H Show, providing support and checking on how his kids did in their exhibits. Duane states, "Give Make and Make tomorrow a better day." Thank you Duane for your continued support of the youth in Tazewell County!!

## Congratulations to our 4-H State Fair Livestock Exhibitors

Let's give a round of applause to the following Tazewell 4-H members that exhibited in a State Fair Livestock Show in August: Allie Anderson, Griffin Anderson, Lilly Anderson, Ty Anderson, Jorgi Dupureur, Kaylyn Powell, Hank Renfro, Ruby Renfro, Lydia Rogers, Carter Schweigert, Clayton Schweigert, Wyatt Schweigert, and McKinleigh Sipka. My sincerest apologies if I missed anyone. These youth represented Tazewell County in Beef, Dairy Cattle, Goats, Poultry, Sheep, and Swine shows.

## Be Sure to Mail a THANK YOU!

Congratulations to all the award winners at the 4-H Show. There were over 100 awards given!

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, please contact the U of I Extension office.



## Discount for Early Enrollment

We love saving 4-H families some money!

4-H has an annual \$20 per youth program fee. Locally, we are offering a \$5 discount on each member's program fee that enrolls and pays by November 30, 2023. There is still the state-wide family cap of \$60, so if you have more than 3 youth enrolling, each child after the third has their program fee waived entirely.

While ZSuite isn't quite ready for 2023-2024 enrollments, it will be soon. The earlier you enroll in 4-H, the sooner you receive relevant and important 4-H information to the program, along with the inside scoop on all the 4-H happenings locally and state-wide.

Be sure you don't miss out on this opportunity!

**NATIONAL 4-H SPIRIT WEEK**

SUNDAY	Service Project Sunday
MONDAY	Member Monday
TUESDAY	Time Machine Tuesday
WEDNESDAY	Why 4-H Wednesday
THURSDAY	Thankful Thursday
FRIDAY	Favorite Project Friday
SATURDAY	Spirit Saturday

**I** **Illinois Extension**

## It's National 4-H Week!

4-H members in Illinois will join the 6 million youth across the country in celebrating National 4-H Week October 1-7. Clubs around Illinois celebrate this week by highlighting the remarkable 4-H youth in their communities and showcasing the incredible experiences that 4-H offers young people. Partner organizations can show support by posting to their social media, printing posters for business windows, and taking part in Spirit Week! We sure to share your stories for #4HWeek to show how you are #IL4HGrown! Find printables, social media, and more here, <https://4h.extension.illinois.edu/about-4-h/national-4-h-week>.



## New Family Welcome

Are you new to 4-H? Or are you interested in joining but want to know more? Join us at an upcoming New Family Welcome! These open-house style meetings will be held from 6 to 7:30pm at each respective Illinois Extension branch office. RSVP at <https://go.illinois.edu/NewFamilyWelcome>

- Fulton County | Thursday, October 5, 2023 | 15411 N IL 100 Highway, Lewistown, IL 61542
- Mason County | Wednesday, October 11 | 127 S High St, Havana, IL 62644
- Tazewell County | Thursday, October 12 | 1505 Valle Vista Blvd, Pekin, IL 61554
- Peoria County | Thursday, October 19 | 4810 North Sheridan Rd, Peoria, IL 61614

## Club Leader & Officer Training

Are you ready to make the new 4-H Year the best ever? Join us at the Club Leader and Officer Training on November 4, 2023 from 9:30am-3:30pm in Pekin. All adult club leaders and youth officers (and those interested in becoming a leader or officer) are invited to join us! Get tips and tricks about your position! Learn from other volunteers! Take home new activities, fresh ideas, and great resources! Registration coming soon.

## Livestock Skillathon is November 4!

Join us at the Stock Pavilion on November 4 and test your knowledge on all things Livestock!

The State 4-H Livestock Ambassador Team, along with Champaign, Ford, Iroquois and Vermilion 4-H, and the Department of Animal Sciences, is hosting a Livestock Skillathon contest. A short workshop will follow after the contest. This skillathon event will help prepare members with the knowledge they will need for the Superior Young Producers Skillathon, which is held annually at the Illinois State Fair.

The contest will include a livestock knowledge quiz, hay judging, wool judging, and the identification of breeds, feeds, meat cuts, and equipment. Please bring your own notebook/pencil/clipboards. Check in begins at 8:30am. Entry fee is \$5 and includes lunch. Registration closes October 31. Register at <https://4h.zsuite.org/event-registrations/22816>.



## Illinois 4-H Junior Leadership Conference 2023

Illinois 4-H Junior Leadership Conference (JLC) is a fun-filled event which provides junior high 4-H members (7th & 8th grades) a look into opportunities in Illinois 4-H and helps start their leadership journey. Members gain skills related to 4-H projects and leadership, such as communication, decision making, and teamwork while engaging in hands-on activities. Conference will take place Nov. 4-5, 2023 in Decatur, IL.

Find more info and register by October 13 at <https://4h.extension.illinois.edu/events/leadership-conferences/junior-leadership-conference>

SEPTEMBER IS

**HUNGER ACTION MONTH!**

[GO.ILLINOIS.EDU/HAM2023](https://go.illinois.edu/HAM2023)



In 4-H, we do a lot that focuses on food...growing it, cooking it, budgeting for it, etc. For some of our neighbors, having access to healthy food is a challenge. During the month of September, Illinois Extension joins organizations across the nation to bring awareness and help close the gap to food insecurity. Would you join us in the Hunger Action Month! There are lots of ways to get involved, like hunger walks, food drives, and more! Find out more at <https://extension.illinois.edu/events/2023-09-01-hunger-action-month>.



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

# We're going digital!

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.

**Thank you so much for your time and understanding!**



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

