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Illinois Extension
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

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



TAZEWELL COUNTY 4-H NEWSLETTER WINTER 2024

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Can you believe the snow is already here? Winter is our favorite time to enjoy all of the cozy activities. We're excited to snuggle up with a good book, visit our favorite local coffee shops, and go ice skating on the pond.

This newsletter is packed with several exciting opportunities, upcoming events, and much more! We encourage to skim over everything because you never know what new 4-H activities await!

If we don't see you before the holidays, we hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving and a blessed December holiday season!

Abbie & Lynda

CLOVER CLINIC

Each year, Tazewell 4-H joins Fulton, Mason, and Peoria counties for a large project workshop day called Clover Clinic. This unit-wide event will be held on Saturday, February 15 at Illinois Central College in East Peoria. Youth will register to participate in up to 4 different hands-on workshops offered throughout the day. This is a fantastic opportunity to explore different areas of interest and could potentially inspire future fair projects. Clover Clinic is for EVERYONE whether they are in 4-H or not, so be sure to invite your friends! **Registration opens December 6 and will close on January 13.** Keep an eye on your email and the Events page of Z-Suite for more information about registration!

SHOOTING SPORTS MAKES A COMEBACK



Shooting Sports is once again being offered in Tazewell County! At this time, Tazewell County will only be offering Archery with hopes to expand to other disciplines in the future. Participants will learn about safety, marksmanship, and much more! Archery is limited to 4-Hers ages 8-18 as of September 1, 2024. The meetings will be at the Livestock Review Building (300 Red Bud Dr, Pekin, IL) and will start Spring 2025. There is also an additional \$20 program fee to help pay for supplies. If you would like more information, please call the Abbie or Lynda at the Extension office or you can find enrollment details on Z-Suite!

🐾🐾🐾🐾🐾 DOG SPIN CLUB 🐾🐾🐾🐾🐾

Hello, my name is Alycia Conrad! I've been training dogs since 2005 in agility, rally, dock diving, frisbee, and fast cat. My whole life revolves around dogs between being a professional groomer and training my own dogs. There are a few things I hope to see and accomplish with the 4-H kids this year including teaching them that training can be fun and how to build a bond with their dogs. Dogs that are motivated by toys or food are the best candidates for training, but we can all learn something. Classes will begin again in Spring 2025 at my outdoor ring in Pekin. Please contact me at (815) 992-5126 to be involved in obedience, basic agility, and some dog gone fun!

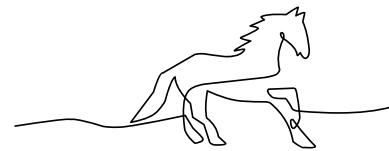


HORSEIN' AROUND SPIN CLUB

Do you know someone who is horse-crazy and wants to learn all about horses? We have the perfect Special Interest (SPIN) 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 2025 and run through April. We will learn different equine topics such as parts of the horse and saddle, colors, markings, grooming, showing, and trail riding safety.

Each practice we will then use our new information to play "Horse Bowl" by buzzing in on your buzzer if you think you know the answer! If 4-Hers have a competitive spirit there is also the option of the Regional Horse Bowl and Hippology Contest in April. Come meet new horse friends and find out about other "horseless" horse activities available in 4-H!

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



JUNIOR MASTER NATURALIST COMING SOON!

Junior Master Naturalist SPIN club is coming soon to Tazewell County! This group will be lead by Extension Master Naturalist, Brittany Chambers. This club is perfect for those that like spending time outdoors, are interested in insects, and animal lovers. Meetings will begin in March 2025 and will explore topics such as botany, weather and climate, animals, and so much more. Learn more by contacting Abbie or Lynda! You can also find out more by checking Z-Suite enrollment information.





HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

If you are graduating from high school in the Class of 2025, then we want to celebrate YOU! Please send a Senior Picture to be included in the 2025 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:

- Your 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 no more than 3 sentences, 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 Monday, March 3, 2025. Deliver in person or email to Abbie (abbiep@illinois.edu) or Lynda (lrs11@illinois.edu).

A SPECIAL ROYAL INVITATION

All princesses ages 3 to 10 are invited to join Tazewell County Fair Queen Jorgi for a royal tea party! There will be snacks, dancing, and story time.



Sunday, December 15
3:00 - 4:30 PM
Encore House



(300 W Queenwood Rd, Morton, IL)

Register by December 1
shorturl.at/itfTU

\$15 is requested for admission to the Queen's table. All proceeds will go Central Illinois Riding Therapy (CIRT).

SHOW BOOK COVER CONTEST

Do you have a talent for design? Would you like a chance to have your skills featured on the cover of this year's show book? Now is your chance! You may sketch, paint, make a photo collage, or create something on the computer. The ideas are endless! Feel free to incorporate original photos in your design. Cover Contest rules:

1. Uses the theme "There's no place like 4-H"
2. Can be in color or in black and white
3. Design fills an 8"x8" space
4. Must be turned in via a format that is easy to print
5. No use of copyrighted material
6. Must be appropriate for 4-H

Extension staff will add the appropriate logos. Designs are due either in person or via email to Abbie (abbiep@illinois.edu) or Lynda (lrs11@illinois.edu) by March 1. In addition to bragging rights, your name and picture will be included on the inside cover. Extension staff will decide the winner and announce the winning design!



CLUB RECORD BOOK AWARDS

Be sure to keep accurate and organized records this 4-H year for your club. Next September, when secretary and treasurer's books are collected, Extension staff will be reviewing them and choosing the best books based on neatness, accuracy, and completeness. There will be a prize for the best books!

There are current secretary books and redesigned treasurer's books available on the state 4-H website.

Treasurers Book:
4h.extension.illinois.edu/library/fiscal-resources
Secretary Book:
4h.extension.illinois.edu/library/club-resources



VOLUNTEER CONTINUING EDUCATION

This year, all screened volunteers are required to complete three hours of 4-H related continuing education that will be tracked in Z-Suite. There are several upcoming opportunities to help you complete some or all of those hours. Please see the list of opportunities below:

December 12, 7pm-8:15pm - Thriving Youth, Thriving Clubs Volunteer Training: Developmental Relationships (webinar via Zoom)

January 14, 7pm-8:15pm - Thriving Youth, Thriving Clubs Volunteer Training: Belonging & Program Quality (webinar via Zoom)

January 25, 9am-Noon - Club Leader and Officer Training (In-person, Tazewell Office)

All continuing education options listed above require a registration that can be found on the events tab of Z-Suite. All of these opportunities are free.

OFFICER AND LEADER TRAINING

Are you a club officer? Would you like to be? Learn to be the leader your club needs at the Club Leader and Officer Training! 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 clubs! Take home new activities, fresh ideas, and great games! Snacks will be provided. [Click here to register by January 18](#) or use the QR code!



Date: Jan 25, 2025

Time: 9am-12pm

Location: Extension Office, Tazewell Branch (1505 Valle Vista Blvd., Pekin, IL 61554)

Register at: go.illinois.edu/LeaderOfficerTraining

SHOOTING SPORTS LEADER TRAINING

If you love being outdoors, coaching, teaching firearm or archery safety, and support youth development, you might be a great candidate to be a Shooting Sports volunteer! While we are re-launching archery here in Tazewell County, there are still opportunities to coach Shotgun, Rifle, and Pistol shooting sports. In order to become a volunteer, you must attend a field day and complete the online module. You will also need to complete the screening process to become a 4-H volunteer. Shooting Sports instructors must be 21 years of age. The next Central Illinois field training day will be on May 10 in Monticello, IL at the 4-H Memorial Camp.

If you are interested in becoming a 4-H Shooting Sports instructor, don't hesitate to reach out to Lynda or Abbie! One of them will help get your volunteer application and screening process started and complete a field day registration on your behalf if you would like to attend.



CALL FOR CLOVER CLINIC VOLUNTEERS

Clover Clinic is quickly approaching and we're very excited! We're currently looking for volunteers to help out during the day. Volunteers will help out instructors, escort participants to and from their sessions, and more. Both teens and adults are more than welcome to volunteer. If you're interested in helping out, please call or email Abbie at 309-347-6614 or abbiep@illinois.edu



ENROLLMENT REMINDER

Don't forget to enroll for the 2024-2025 4-H year! Though the window for the \$10 discount will have passed on November 30, enrollment through Z-Suite is still ongoing until May 2025. Each 4-Her must re-enroll each year in order to stay active in 4-H. Enrollment fees are \$20 and can be paid through Z-Suite via credit card or at the Extension office if you prefer to pay with cash or check.

ENROLL TODAY AT 4H.ZSUITE.ORG!

FIND YOUR SPARK

Need some inspiration for your 4-H projects this year? Look no further than the Illinois 4-H Project Guide! Explore all the project areas you can dive into through 4-H, including 20 new or updated projects from last year. You can find it online or feel free to pick up a physical copy at the Extension office.

Online Version: 4h.extension.illinois.edu/ways-participate/projects

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



PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST

The Tazewell County 4-H Public Speaking contest will take place in April 2025 in the Tazewell County Farm Bureau auditorium. Members enrolled in this project area will be contacted directly with details when the date gets closer. Those wishing to exhibit a Public Speaking project should make sure they are enrolled in a club and for indicated that project area in Z-Suite.

The Illinois State 4-H Public Speaking Contest is scheduled for April 26, 2025.



PUBLIC SPEAKING WORKSHOP

Perfect your public speaking skills by attending our Public Speaking Workshop! You'll have the opportunity to learn from the judges for our local Public Speaking Contest before the contest arrives. This workshop will be in late March at the Extension office. A date, time, and other details are still to be determined and will be sent out at a later date.

HORSE/PONY ID AND LEASE INFORMATION

Each year, 4-Hers wishing to show horses at the fair in July are required to provide proof of lease or ownership, registration papers (if applicable), and an updated Coggins Test to the Extension office by April 15. More information and forms will be sent to those enrolled in horse projects at a later date.



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 we encourage members 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!

LIVESTOCK OWNERSHIP

It is recommended that those planning to show livestock at the fair this year own or have leased their animals by January 1.



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.

FOOD SCIENCE AWARD

If you're interested in Food Science, there may be more than just a 4-H premium available! Once again this year, the Chicagoland Food Science Foundation is providing a \$50 Amazon gift card for the overall Food Science winner in each Illinois county. Be sure to enroll and sign up to exhibit a Food Science project for your chance to win!



NEW PROJECT SPOTLIGHTS



This year, Illinois 4-H added or revised 20 projects. In the last newsletter, we highlighted Babysitting, Clothing Embellishment, and Costume Design. Let's highlight a few more delicious and healthy options!



GLOBAL GOURMET

Explore the world from your kitchen! Try making meals from Mexico, Africa, Japan, India, Italy, Greece and Germany. You'll also learn about food history, customs, and nutrition as you learn to better understand our world.



KITCHEN BOSS

Kitchen Boss is designed for advanced-level youth interested in developing cooking skills at home or exploring cooking as a profession. With focus on the culinary approach, learners try new cooking methods, become familiar with kitchen tools and equipment, and experiment with ingredients and flavors.



EVERYDAY FOOD AND FITNESS

Learn how to prepare healthy and hearty snacks using MyPlate as a guide, and discover how powerful healthy food can be for your body and mind. This project shows you how to add exercise to a healthy diet and find a path to a better quality of life.

**Please note that none of these project areas are eligible for the Chicagoland Food Science Foundation award.



DECEMBER

December 6 - Clover Clinic registration opens

December 15 - Royal Tea Party

December 24 - 31 - Extension office closed for the holidays

JANUARY

January 1 - Extension office closed for the New Year holiday

January 1 - All exhibitors showing livestock should be in possession of their animal(s)

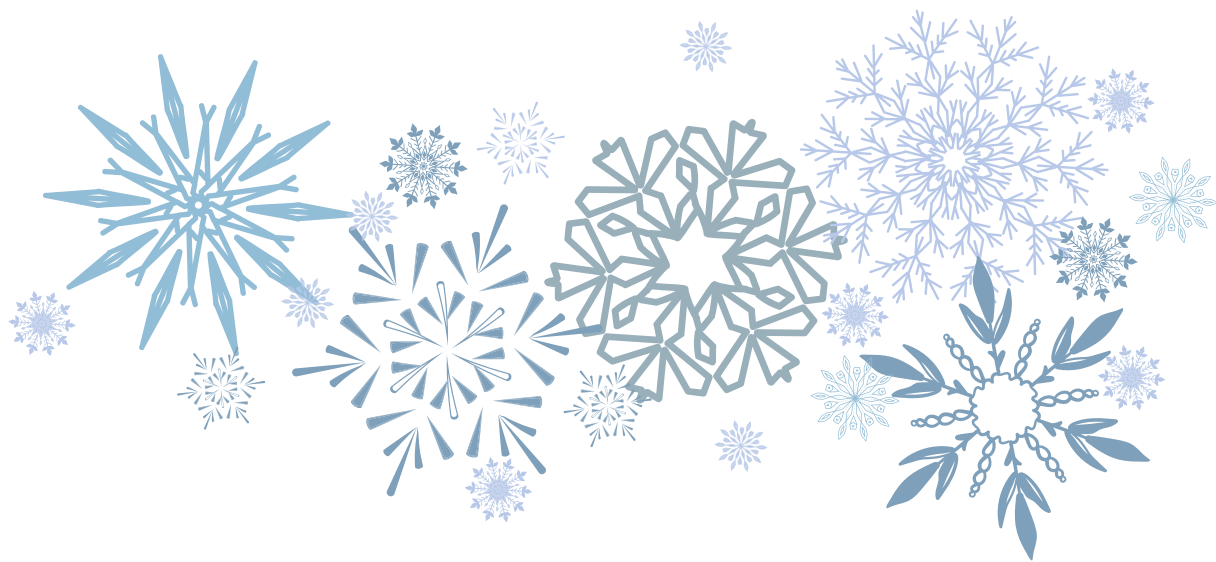
January 13 - Clover Clinic registration closes

January 20 - Extension office closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

January 25 - Officer and Leader Training (rescheduled from Oct. 19)

FEBRUARY

February 15 - Clover Clinic at ICC



COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, CONSUMER, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

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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) or Lynda (Irs11@illinois.edu).

TAZEWELL COUNTY 4-H STAFF

Abbie Phillips, 4-H Program Coordinator
Lynda Sharp-Lower, 4-H Program Coordinator
Emily Schoenfelder, 4-H Youth Educator
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