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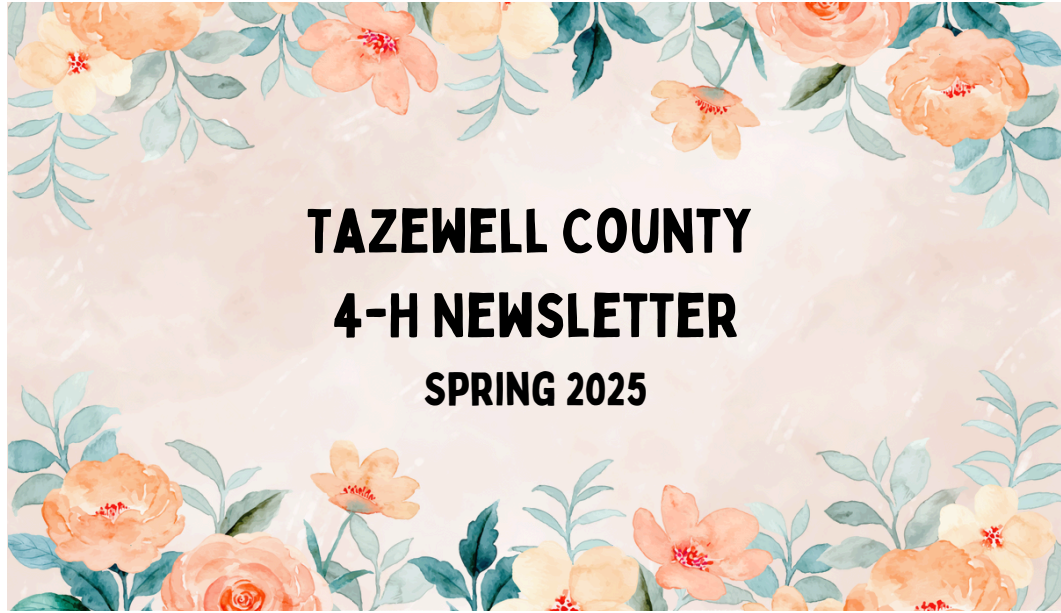
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- Upcoming Events (Put me on your fridge!)



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

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



# TAZEWELL COUNTY 4-H NEWSLETTER SPRING 2025

## SPRING IS ALMOST HERE!

The days are getting longer and it's slowly getting warmer!

Spring time brings lots of new and fresh starts and the same can be said about 4-H in Tazewell County! Be sure to check out the next few pages to see what we've been planning for you this spring. We're excited to be welcoming several brand new and returning SPIN clubs, opportunities to get involved and much more.

Don't forget to make sure you're enrolled for 4-H and happy spring!

*Abbie & Lynda*

## ENROLLMENT REMINDER

As we get further into the 4-H year, don't forget the most important step in getting involved in 4-H: enrolling! 4-H enrollment must be done each year by all new and returning members and volunteers. We use a platform called Z-Suite to house important information about each 4-Her including what projects they might be interested in showing at the fair. By knowing these things, Lynda and Abbie can make sure each 4-Her is getting the information about upcoming events and deadlines. Z-Suite also helps us collect 4-H enrollment fees, which are \$20 per 4-Her. If a family has more than three youth participating in 4-H, they will only need to pay for three, the others will be free! Get started today at

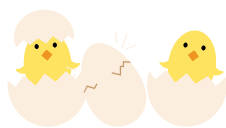
**ZSUITE.4H.ORG**





### EMBRYOLOGY CHICK ADOPTION

Each year, Peoria and Tazewell counties team up to do a program called Embryology in the Classroom. Teachers and students get to hatch chicks in their classrooms and witness the beginning of new life! At the end of the project, some of the chicks will need homes as each classroom could have up to 18 chicks hatching. Sessions of the program wrap up on March 21 and May 16. The best part is that all chicks are free! Are you interested in adopting chicks? Let Abbie or Lynda know!



### FEDERATION HAPPENINGS

Tazewell Federation has been regularly meeting since November and has been up to some exciting things! So far, members have donated toys to Toys for Tots, have made dog treats, blankets, and cat toys for the animals at TAPS, and volunteered their time helped to make Clover Clinic a success! Federation is still open for new members ages 13 to 18 who are currently in a 4-H club until May 1. The next Federation meeting will be on Saturday, March 15 at Central Illinois Riding Therapy (CIRT). Members will be helping to get the barn ready for riders to begin classes again for the spring. Anyone interested in Federation is welcome to join for the CIRT workday. Let Abbie know if you are interested!

### DONE WITH YOUR PROJECT BOOKS?

Do you have project manuals laying around that you are done with or from projects you didn't end up taking to the fair? Feel free to bring them back to the Extension office if they are in good condition. Abbie and Lynda will store them and give them to the next 4-Her who needs them! Please do not bring back books that are dirty, ruined, or written in.



### NEW SPIN CLUBS

This spring, several new and returning SPIN clubs will be starting up once again! Take a quick glance to see if one of them is interesting to you!

#### JUNIOR MASTER NATURALIST

The first meeting will be on Saturday, March 22 at 1 PM at the Tazewell County Farm Bureau Building Auditorium. Meetings will regularly be on the first and third Saturdays in March through September.

#### JUNIOR MASTER GARDENER

The first meeting will be on Tuesday, April 29 at the Tazewell County Farm Bureau Building Auditorium, Pekin.

#### ARCHERY SHOOTING SPORTS

The first meeting will be on Monday, April 21 at 6 PM in the Livestock Review Building at Mineral Springs Park in Pekin. As this club gets going after several years of inactivity, the club is limited to 12 participants at this time. Sign ups will open on April 1. A link will be sent out to the county on that date, so watch your email! There will also be a waiting list for those that are not able to make into the class. A link will also be sent out for that on April 1. Abbie or Lynda will reach out to those on the wait list if spots become available. We ask that each participant bring \$10 to their first meeting to help offset the cost of equipment and maintenance.

#### DOG SPIN CLUB

Meetings will begin in May 2025. Details about time, date, and location will be announced soon!

#### ENROLL IN SPIN CLUBS

If youth wish to participate in one of these clubs, simply enroll in Z-Suite for the desired club(s). If youth have already been enrolled in 4-H for the year, they can edit their already existing enrollment and simply add a club. If you have any trouble, please contact Abbie or Lynda and they can help with enrollment or any questions!

## 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 on March 20 at the Extension office and will be from 4:30 - 7:30 PM with a light dinner provided. Sign up in Z-Suite on the events tabs to participate!

## PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST

The Tazewell County 4-H Public Speaking contest will take place on April 1, 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 indicate their interest in that project area in Z-Suite. Those wishing to participate should also be registered in FairEntry and Z-Suite no later than 11:59 PM on Monday, March 24. More information will be sent out about how to use FairEntry in the coming week.

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

## 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, they will fill your request as soon as they 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)



## 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. There will be several opportunities to do this training in person for little to no cost. If 4-Hers would rather do the training online, they 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.

## 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 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.



## 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:

March 1 at 10 AM - Z-Suite 101

April (Date TBD) - Z-Suite 101

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.

## 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 be 21 years of age, complete the 4-H volunteer screening, attend a field day, and complete the online module. 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 screening process started and complete a field day registration on your behalf.



## CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to our newest screened volunteers! Thank you for being willing to volunteer your time to make 4-H in Tazewell County a success!

Ashley Hellemann - Co Leader of Galloping Clovers 4-H Club

Brittany Chambers - Leader of Junior Master Naturalist SPIN club

Daniel Wuthrich - Co Leader of Archery Shooting Sports

Diana Vannaken - Co Leader of Galloping Clovers 4-H Club

Ellen Denler - Co Leader of Junior Master Gardener SPIN club

Janine Donahue - Co Leader of Junior Master Gardener SPIN club

Nichole Zimmerman - Co Leader of Tremont Co-op Junior 4-H Club

Peter Rummel - Leader of Morton Helping Hands 4-H Club

Quinten Ackerman - Co Leader of Archery Shooting Sports

Teresa Kaiser - Co Leader of Tremont Co-op Junior 4-H Club

Trudy Yazujian - Co Leader of Junior Master Gardener SPIN club





## MARCH

March 1 - Show book cover contest entries due (see Winter 2024 newsletter)

March 3 - High school senior spotlight submissions due (see Winter 2024 newsletter)

March 20 - Public Speaking Workshop, Tazewell office Auditorium

March 22 - First Junior Master Naturalist meeting, Tazewell office Auditorium

March 29 - Central Region Horse Bowl and Hippology Contest, Parkland College, Champaign

## APRIL

April 1 - County Public Speaking Contest, Tazewell office Auditorium, 4 PM

April 15 - Horse/Pony ID and Lease paperwork due

April 21 - First Archery Shooting Sports Meeting, Livestock Review Building

April 26 - State Public Speaking Contest

April 29 - First Junior Master Gardener meeting, Tazewell office Auditorium

## MAY

May 1 - Deadline to be enrolled in Z-Suite in order to participate in 2025 4-H Show and Jr Fair

May 15 - FairEntry Opens to begin signing up for exhibit classes for 2025 4-H Show and Jr Fair

May 10 - Shooting Sports instructor training, Monticello, IL





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

