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Illinois Extension
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

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



FAIR SEASON ALREADY?!

As we’re sure you have noticed, we’ve been busy bees this past spring! With several new SPIN clubs on-going, we’re excited to move on to planning the biggest event of the summer: the 4-H Show!

Each year, we do our best to find ways to make the fair run smoother and more fun for everyone! There are a couple bigger changes this year, so be on the lookout for more information on those. Don’t forget to get your Show Book if you haven’t already! We’ll be keeping you posted as more fair details get settled. We can’t wait for the 2025 4-H Show and Junior Fair!

Abbie & Lynda

FAIRENTRY VS. Z-SUITE

4-H enrollment has come to an end for the 24-25 4-H year, which means it’s time to dive into FairEntry! FairEntry is where 4-H families will sign up for specific project classes. Project class numbers and descriptions of each project can be found in the Show Book, so make sure to get yours soon! Unfortunately, Z-Suite and FairEntry do not do the same things and do not share information. In order to show at the fair, 4-Hers must enroll in Z-Suite AND sign up in FairEntry. All 4-Hers wishing to show at the fair must have their final project selections chosen in FairEntry no later than July 1, 2025. FairEntry opened on May 15. Abbie and Lynda recommend getting this out of the way as soon as you can! Get started at fairentry.com!

PREPARE FOR FAIR WORKSHOP

Are you new to 4-H? Have you never taken a project to the fair? The Prepare for Fair Workshop might be for you! All new 4-H families are encouraged to attend! Learn more about what to expect from the fair, how project judging works, what the different ribbons mean, and much more. This workshop is for parents and youth planning to attend and/or take a project to the fair this year. Parents will hear from 4-H Coordinators about fair details and youth 4-H members will get practice talking to a judge about a project. We hope to see you there!

Prepare for Fair Workshop
Tuesday, June 24, 2025
6:00 PM

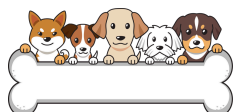
Tazewell County Extension Auditorium
1505 Valle Vista Blvd, Pekin

AKC CANINE GOOD CITIZEN

Starting in 2025 and beyond, all youth new to dog training are required to complete the American Kennel Club's (AKC) Canine Good Citizen (CGC) Testing. Though not required for exhibitors returning to the project, it is still encouraged! This program tests dogs and handlers on ten different skills to ensure each team is ready to do their best in the showring and in everyday life. Testing should be performed by any AKC recognized evaluator, which can be found at all Petco stores nationwide or at the nearest AKC Training Club.

Proof of successful test completion should be turned into the Extension office by July 15, 2025.

Any 4-H member wishing to advance to the state competition must have proof of successful completion on file at the Extension office. Please visit the websites listed below for more information.



Petco CGC:

petco.com/shop/en/petcostore/c/canine-good-citizen

AKC CGC: akc.org/products-services/training-programs/canine-good-citizen/

STILL NEED A SHOW BOOK?

The show book is a fantastic tool for learning exactly what is required for each project at the fair. Abbie and Lynda highly recommend reading your project descriptions to make sure you are successful at the fair. All projects are partially judged based on how well they follow the guidelines in the show book.

Though it is recommended that 4-Hers chose a project area and make a project to fit the descriptions, you may already have a project in mind! If you're having trouble finding which class your project might fit in, don't hesitate to reach out to Abbie or Lynda!

Do you still need a Show Book? Feel free to stop by the Extension office to get a printed copy! You can also follow the link or scan the QR code below to access this year's show book digitally.



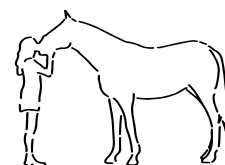
extension.illinois.edu/sites/default/files/2025tazewell4-hshowbook.pdf

HORSE CLINICS

Are you planning to show a horse at in the 4-H horse show this year? If you are, we highly recommend attending horse clinics! These clinics are taught by our very own Horse Show Superintendent, Jenna Walker. You'll have the opportunity to familiarize yourself and your horse with the show ring and learn more about showing horses.

June 4, 11, 25

July 9, 15, 23



All clinics will begin at 6 pm and will be in the Livestock Review Building at Mineral Springs Park in Pekin.

NEW PROJECT LEVEL POLICY

This year when enrolling in Z-Suite and when registering for the fair in FairEntry, 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. If you have any questions, let them know!

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



BOOK ICON



You may have noticed a little something different when flipping through the 2025 Show Book. Projects that require the use of a project manual will be marked by a round book icon. We hope this will make it easier to identify which projects do and don't need a project manual. To request project manuals, see the article on page 4!



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 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.

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.





PUBLIC SPEAKING RESULTS

On April 1, nine 4-Hers competed in the Tazewell County Public Speaking Contest. All received blue ribbons! Those selected to represent Tazewell County at the State Public Speaking Contest presented their speeches again on April 26 at Parkland College. A special congratulations to Ruth Lewis who placed third at the state contest!

TROPHY WINNER

Ruth Lewis - Beginning Illustrated Speech

STATE FAIR DELEGATES

John Lewis - Oral Interpretation Individual
Ruth Lewis - Beginning Illustrated Speech
Jillian and Katrina Steinlage - Oral Interpretation Team

STATE FAIR ALTERNATES

Jillian Steinlage - Advanced Illustrated Speech
Katrina Steinlage - Beginner Illustrated Speech
Ezra White and Caleb Lewis - Oral Interpretation Team

Congratulations to all who competed at the local and state level! We loved hearing all of your speeches and creative topics. We're so proud of you!

CIRT BENEFIT OPEN HORSE SHOW

You're invited!

36th Annual CIRT Benefit Horse Show

4 Rocks Arena, Delavan

May 31, 2025



Are you looking for an opportunity to show your horse this summer? Each year Central Illinois Riding Therapy (CIRT) holds a number of events to support their program including their Annual Benefit Open Horse Show. The show is open to all ages of youth and adults of all riding disciplines! There will also be a new and used tack sale starting at 9am and will run through the end of the show. For more information about entering the show or donating tack to be sold, please contact CIRT directly at 309-699-3710 or email at cirt@cirt.info.

HORSE BOWL AND HIPPOLOGY RESULTS

On March 28, fourteen Tazewell County 4-Hers attended the Horse Bowl and Hippology Contest at Parkland College in Champaign. As teams and as individuals, they earned several top marks!

HIPPOLOGY

JUNIOR

Jude White - 2nd
Miriam Verceler - 5th
Eva Koch - 8th
Ruth Lewis - 9th
Steven White - 10th

INTERMEDIATE

Hannah Koch - 2nd
Ezra White - 5th
Reagan Ziegler - 8th

SENIOR

Honoray White - 1st

HORSE BOWL

INDIVIDUAL JUNIOR

Hannah Koch - 1st
Reagan Ziegler - 2nd
Miriam Verceler - 3rd
Sofia Cisneros - 9th

JUNIOR TEAM

1st Place

INDIVIDUAL SENIOR

Ezra White - 3rd
Honoray White - 4th

SENIOR TEAM

2nd Place

A special thank you to the teams' coach, Vera Betzelberger for all your hard work and coaching expertise! Congratulations to all and thank you for representing Tazewell County so well. We're so proud of you!





MORTON HELPING HANDS

The Morton Helping Hands 4-H club has been busy this year with various projects and field trips around the Morton community. Projects have included packaging 564 bags of pasta at Midwest Food Bank and making and delivering Christmas cards to the residents at Restmor Apostolic Christian Nursing Home. In April, the club visited the Morton fire station and learned about fire safety and first responders' roles in their community. Thank you to club Historian and Reporter, Ethan Beocker, for sharing what your club has been up to so far this year!



4-H SHOOTING SPORTS

Archery Shooting Sports has been a ton of fun from day one and is nearly ready to wrap up for the spring, with their final meeting being on May 29. Members have been working on learning how to safely and properly use a bow and arrow, improving their aim, and much more!

A special thank you to Daniel and Quentin for getting this club started for us again, as well as Jeff for being willing to help out at each session! We couldn't do it without you! Stay tuned for more exciting Shooting Sports news!



4-H QUEST CLUB

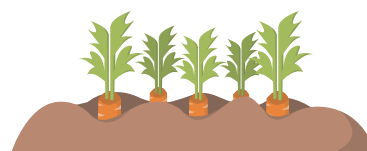
On May 3, the 4-H Quest Club from Morton took a trip to visit some 4 legged friends at the Betzelberger farm! What many people may not know is that the 4-H Quest club was named after a special resident of the Betzelberger farm. Her full name is Starr Quest, but her friends call her Starr. You can find her pictured below with her new friends!

This year, new 4-H Leader, Jenny Miller, has been incorporating learning into each meeting. The club has explored topics such as livestock and horses, college and career readiness, and many more! Thank you for sharing what you've been up to this year!



JUNIOR MASTER GARDENER SPIN CLUB

The Junior Master Gardener SPIN Club is officially underway! Their first meeting was on April 29 at the Extension office. They talked about the roles that plants play in our everyday lives, different types of vegetables, and wrapped up the meeting with a craft to show the parts of a leaf and how they play a part in how a plant grows. Since then, they have been able to get out to the WIC garden to learn about what makes up soil and what plants need from soil to grow! Their next meetings will be June 3, 17, and July 1. Weather permitting, they plan to have all remaining meetings at the WIC Garden at the old Tazewell County Health Department. For more information about future meetings, locations, or for signing up for the club, please contact Lynda or Abbie.





FEDERATION

Federation has also been keeping busy this spring with a some service projects and fun evenings!

In March, Federation went out to Central Illinois Riding Therapy (CIRT) to help clean and prepare for upcoming events. Members cleaned saddles and bridles, helped organize brushes, and more. After they finished, Jenna gave them a tour of the barn and told them a little about each horse that lives at CIRT.



Most recently, Tazewell Federation hosted a game night for Fulton, Mason, and Peoria Federations. Members of all four Federations came together to have a fun evening filled with lots of games, pizza, root beer floats, and getting to know one another! Tazewell Federation had a great time hosting friends from other counties and we can't wait to do it again soon!

Federation is a year-round club that is open to current 4-H members aged 13 and up. Membership is open throughout the year so those interested are welcome anytime! On May 29, Federation plans to plant flowers in the raised planter outside the Extension office. Let Abbie know if you are interested in attending the next meeting!



JUNIOR MASTER NATURALIST SPIN CLUB

Over the course of their last four meetings, the Junior Master Naturalist Club has gotten off to a great start in exploring and engaging with nature. They kicked off their first meeting with a get-to-know-you session, building obstacle courses and starting their nature journals. Next, they investigated cloud types and the water cycle by creating clouds in a bottle and playing Cloud Tag. Their third meeting focused on birds, crafting feeders, going birding, and discovering a Killdeer protecting its nest. Most recently, they explored Illinois ecosystems, learned about prairies, urbanization, and wildlife efforts, created moss terrariums, and reflected in nature with journaling under and in a tree.

Does this club sound interesting to you? You can still join be signing up in Z-Suite! This club will be meeting through September, so there's still plenty of time to get involved!





UPCOMING DATES AND EVENTS



JUNE

June 16 - Special Fair Edition Newsletter Release

June 24 - Prepare for Fair Workshop

JULY

July 1 - FairEntry closes

July 15 - Deadline for YQCA and QAEC completion

July 11- Horse Show meeting, all horse exhibitors encouraged to attend

July 17 - Clothing and Textiles judging

July 21 - Creative Writing submissions due via email

July 26 - Fair Set-Up, 8 am @ Mineral Springs Park

July 28, 29, 30 - Tazewell County 4-H Show and Junior Fair

AUGUST

August 9 - Tazewell State Fair day

August 31 - End of the 24 - 25 4-H year





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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, club activities 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 (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

