

## A message from your Gallatin County Extension Program Coordinator,



Wow- what a ride this has been! Yes, there is still a lot of uncertainty, but it looks like in person programming could be on the horizon! Granted, we would have reduced numbers, and of course would be following social distancing and masking protocols.

To fill the void, we are trying a virtual club. The new 4-H Online format is now active. If you have previously registered online you should be able to re-enroll using your previous email and password. If you have not enrolled digitally before, I can walk you through the process- you may have an account already using a provided email address. Once enrolled we will arrange pick up of your 4-H club activity box.

We will be charging the \$20 Enrollment fee this year. This fee helps cover the costs of supplies. We also understand that fee may be challenging for some and we have waivers available- please use these!

**Thanks to a generous donor, we have 5 free enrollments available now!** Contact me for details. Again, youth will receive a box of supplies for various activities. We WILL meet via Zoom, but links to websites and videos will also be provided in order to give direction to those that may not be able to join at the scheduled times.

If you have any questions about 4-H, particular projects, or ideas we can try virtually please contact me at [kscates@illinois.edu](mailto:kscates@illinois.edu) or through Facebook Messenger. I'll answer any questions to the best of my ability and I'm happy to work with all of you to try something new to keep our youth engaged and learning!

Miss y'all,  
Kassy

# Gallatin County

## 4-H Newsletter

### Calendar of Events

Ongoing: Join 4-H and participate in both hands on and virtual activities.

2/18 Regional Horse Bowl and Hippology registrations due

2/25 Volunteer Training- Leading in a Virtual World

3/4 Registration Closes for Speaking for Illinois 4-H

3/6 Speaking for Illinois 4-H Training

3/5-7 2021 Virtual Agri-Science Summit

3/13 Regional Virtual Horse Bowl and Hippology

If you will need disability-related accommodations in order to participate, please email the contact person for the event. Early requests are strongly encouraged to allow sufficient time to meet your access needs.



We have shifted to a new version of 4-H Online, which is now ready to use. You may log in with your existing account at

<https://v2.4honline.com/#/user/sign-in> or look up 4-H Online and select Illinois as your state. If you aren't sure if you have an account please email [kscates@illinois.edu](mailto:kscates@illinois.edu) and I will provide you with login information. There is a \$20 enrollment fee. This fee helps cover supplies for youth and the activities provided.



While I know many of our families are dealing with “screen fatigue” from virtual learning, we are offering hands on activities. 4-H is providing many of the materials needed. We can’t provide everything, but we can try to get the basics to our members.

The Wizarding World of 4-H is a box FULL of activities. Participants will get sorted, learn about the pillars of 4-H and have FUN! We have science activities, crafts, and much much more in a box! There are links and instructions provided, but we will be working on these activities together via Zoom meetings. Email [kscates@illinois.edu](mailto:kscates@illinois.edu) for more information!

## 4-H Horses



Youth interested in participating in the Horse Bowl and Hippology the time has come to register. Normally the Southern Regional Contest takes place at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. Due to COVID, the 2021 regional horse bowl and hippology contest will be held virtually on March 13.

The Hippology contest will be run like last year’s virtual contest. It will use Compass Blackboard in conjunction with Proctorio proctoring software. There will be 10 stations and a written exam with 50 multiple choice questions. Last year Horse Bowl didn’t have a virtual option. This year instead of the traditional format, youth will also take a test of Horse Bowl questions that are fill in the blank and or short answer written test through Compass Blackboard. Youth will participate as a team, and the team score will be tabulated from the three highest scores on the team. Registrations is due February 18. There is an extra permission form that gives consent to having their child video and audio proctored while online testing.

## 4-H Shooting Sports Leader Certification Training

9am – 7pm; Saturday, June 5, 2021

Location: 4-H Memorial Camp, Monticello, IL

Registration Details Coming Soon.



**5 Free Enrollments!**  
Thanks to the generosity of a donor who would like to remain anonymous,

Gallatin County 4-H can cover 5 the first 5 enrollments this new year. Please contact Kassy at [kscates@illinois.edu](mailto:kscates@illinois.edu) before enrolling online to make sure there are funds left and enrollment instructions.



4-H members wanting to learn the basics of cupcake decorating we have a workshop for you! This will be a virtual workshop hosted via zoom on **Saturday February 20,**

at 10:30 AM. For more information contact me or email Kendra Vaughn at [klvaughn@illinois.edu](mailto:klvaughn@illinois.edu)

Registration is now open!! [go.illinois.edu/cupcakedecorating](https://go.illinois.edu/cupcakedecorating) Remember you must be an enrolled 4-H member to participate.

## BARRED OWL NEST BOX CHALLENGE



**GET READY FOR ....  
Barred Owl Nest Box  
Monitoring Season**

Remind your local 4-H families and clubs involved in the Barred Owl Nest Box Challenge to prepare to

monitor their nest boxes weekly or bi-weekly in March and April! Send the [NestWatch data sheet](#) to Curt Sinclair at [sinclair@illinois.edu](mailto:sinclair@illinois.edu) by June 1, 2021 so we can tally the results! Momma owl is looking for nesting sites right now and she’ll decide in February what suits her best! Stay the course – good science takes effort.



## Tell Your 4-H Story – Join the *Speaking* for Illinois 4-H Team

We're looking for 4-H members interested in spreading the great news about 4-H. 4-H members 14 years of age or older can join the ***Speaking for Illinois 4-H*** team. There will be a virtual training offered on **Saturday, March 6.**

This virtual training, provided by the Illinois State 4-H Youth Leadership Team, gives you the chance to explore your own 4-H history and why you are involved, put that story into words, and learn the best ways to approach donors, civic groups, elected officials, and others to talk about 4-H. Learn why 4-H believes in Positive Youth Development and how we emphasize the essential elements of Belonging, Independence, Generosity and Mastery. All of this – and more – is a part of *Speaking for Illinois 4-H!* Once you're trained, you'll receive an invitation to be a part of our Legislative Connection events.

Registration is open NOW @:  
<https://4h.extension.illinois.edu/events/speaking-illinois-4-h-training>. **Registration will close March 4.**

## 4-H Memorial Camp

4-H Memorial Camp is currently working on summer programming plans for 2021 to align with Phase 4 and Phase 5 of the Restore Illinois Plan. We know everyone is anxious to find out when we can get back to holding our traditional Summer Youth Camps. Typically we would open registration the first Monday in February.

At this time, we do not have a firm idea what phase of the Restore Illinois Plan (developed by the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity) we will be in. This has a direct impact on what we are able to offer. Our hope is to be able to make decisions about summer 2021 by the end of March if not sooner. Decisions concerning summer programming at 4-H Memorial Camp (including registration information) will be shared on our website, via email newsletters from your local Extension Offices to 4-H members, and on Facebook.

If you have any questions, please contact Andy Davis at [ardavis1@illinois.edu](mailto:ardavis1@illinois.edu) or Monika Hammerschmidt at [hammersc@illinois.edu](mailto:hammersc@illinois.edu). Email is currently the best way to contact us



Get cash to help improve your community Looking for funding support to conduct community service outreach in your community? Farm Credit Illinois is ready to help Illinois 4-H clubs and FFA chapters bring positive and visible change to Illinois communities! Fifty \$500 Community Improvement Grants are available. Clubs must be located in one of the 60 central and southern Illinois counties served by Farm Credit Illinois. Check if your club is eligible and apply today at [farmcreditIL.com](http://farmcreditIL.com). Be sure to contact your LOCAL EXTENSION OFFICE BEFORE applying for this grant to ensure you follow all fiscal requirements!

## 2021 AG INNOVATORS EXPERIENCE

This next year's theme will be **Curbing Our Carbon Appetite**. The 2021 4-H Ag Innovators Experience, Curbing Our Carbon Appetite Challenge, is a series of interactive, hands-on activities that help youth understand why everyone has a role to play in addressing climate change. Participants will learn how human activity including burning of fossil fuels, deforestation, soil mismanagement, and unwise food systems are increasing atmospheric carbon and contributing to climate change. The activity leads them through an exploration of actions that three carbon influencer groups—agriculture, business and industry, and individuals and families—can take to reduce atmospheric carbon.

If you are interested to learn more and to participate in the AIE 2021 activities, please join us for an informational meeting **Tuesday, January 5th, 2021 from 10-11:00 AM (CST).**

**Register here:**

<https://go.illinois.edu/CurbingOurCarbonAppetite>

In our meeting we will discuss:

1. Details about the challenge
2. The salary reimbursement process for participating Units
3. Questions you have about engaging youth

Please join us! We are looking to recruit a team of about 10-15 folks to meet our deliverables.

## NATIONAL 4-H COUNCIL ANNOUNCES THE UPCOMING 2021 NATIONAL YOUTH AGRISCIENCE SUMMIT

At the National 4-H Youth Summit on Agri-Science, high school students develop the skills and knowledge needed for the challenges facing agriculture, food security, and sustainability. Students will work with each other and experts in the agricultural community in this collaborative, hands-on educational setting. The summit will be an opportunity to meet like-minded peers from across the country, learn more about career opportunities, and network with professionals in the field of Agri-science. As a cornerstone of the experience, participants are challenged to identify and develop action plans that address issues related to agriculture in their community. For more information visit: <https://4-h.org/parents/national-youth-summits/#!/agri-science>

For more information, contact Mark Becker, [mbbecker@illinois.edu](mailto:mbbecker@illinois.edu).



### School Enrichment resources

Illinois Extension is well positioned to help parents and teachers dive more deeply into relevant and interesting curriculum areas. Regardless of the age of the learner, our educators have crafted a set of educational

resources that will help students understanding important information about topics that touch their everyday lives. These educational units are free and available to use in any classroom or home school environment.

#### Elementary

<https://extension.illinois.edu/global/elementary-school-educational-units>

- [Livestock E-Quiz:](#)
- [All-Star River Explorers:](#)
- [Riding the Winds with Kalani:](#)
- [Trees are Terrific:](#)
- [Best of Friends: Kids and Dogs:](#)
- [Adventures of Herman:](#)
- [Great Plant Escape:](#)
- [Let's Talk about Insects:](#)
- [Secret Life of Trees:](#)
- [Trees Are Terrific:](#)
- [Food Fun from Apples to Zucchini:](#)

- [Fresh From the World...Where Your Food Comes From:](#)

#### Junior High

<https://extension.illinois.edu/global/middle-school-educational-units>

- [Livestock E-Quiz:](#)
- [I Think Green:](#)
- [Shake, Rattle, and Slide:](#)
- [Tree House Weather Kids:](#)
- [Let's Party:](#)
- [Walk in My Shoes:](#)
- [Dr. Arbor Talks Trees:](#)
- [HOT Project:](#)

#### High School

<https://extension.illinois.edu/global/high-school-educational-units>

- [Livestock E-Quiz:](#)
- [Business of Babysitting:](#)
- [Financial Planning for Young Adults:](#)

## JUST THE HELP YOU NEED FOR YOUR 4-H CLUB

The Illinois 4-H Website has all of the resources and forms needed to guide 4-H club officers, committees, and members as they plan for the new 4-H program year.

- Go to [go.illinois.edu/IL4H](http://go.illinois.edu/IL4H)
- Click on the **Clubs** tab.
- Scroll to Meeting Resources near the bottom of the page
- Find these helpful documents:
  - **Club Meeting Agenda** – this fillable form is a useful fill-in-the-blank form your club officers can use as they plan each section of the meeting. This useful form provides them with the meeting structure they can use to identify who from the club should be in charge of each potential item that may be included in a meeting.
  - **Club Committee Planning Worksheet** – the Committee Planning Worksheet is an excellent tool to give to committee members as they plan club events and activities.
  - **Club Yearly Program Plan** – this helpful tool guides the club officers and club members as they identify club goals to work toward during the year and brainstorm what programs, events and/or activities to plan for the club to engage

members in fun, hands-on learning experiences throughout the program year.

- o **More** – Don't forget to download your new secretary book, treasurer book, tips for good club meetings, tips for using the 4-H name, and more other important resources.

## 4-H Alumni News

Do you have news to share with the Illinois 4-H Alumni Association? Moved - New Address? Did you get a new job? Married? Promotion? New Baby? A recent death of a 4-H alum? We would love to hear your updates and stay connected!

<https://surveys.illinois.edu/sec/8251680>

Interested in sharing your 4-H story for a 4-H Alumni profile? We are seeking 4-H alumni to share their 4-H story to be highlighted on our social media accounts for a "Member Monday" 4-H profile

<https://surveys.illinois.edu/sec/2162799>

We hope you will engage with us online and help create a network of 4-H alumni.

- **LinkedIn:**  
<https://go.illinois.edu/LinkedIn4HALumni>
- **Facebook:**  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/il4halumni/>
- **Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/IL4halumni>
- **Instagram:**  
<https://www.instagram.com/il4halumni/>

## 4-H VOLUNTEER TRAINING OPPORTUNITY!

During this period when 4-H members find themselves experiencing restrictions associated with gathering with friends and club members face-to-face, having the opportunity to be part of an engaging and fun, yes we said FUN virtual meeting might be the highlight of their week!

Register now for this upcoming **Volunteer Training – Leading in a Virtual World!**

If you question whether you have the skills or tools you need to put together a virtual club experience, this webinar will help you become comfortable interacting in a virtual meeting format; and more importantly support you as you include every part of the club meeting virtually. You can conduct club business; engage members in group decision-making; create positive learning experiences; and give members an opportunity to laugh and have fun together! Be sure to encourage your 4-H members in leadership roles to participate as well.

Link to register for the **February 25, 2021** volunteer training opportunity

<https://illinois.zoom.us/j/83565174329?pwd=dDAvR2lxN3J3bmJqQVdmTy9raUZsZz09>

## 4-H VOLUNTEER CAFÉ CONVERSATIONS!

Register to participate in the **4-H Volunteer Café Conversations**. We are so excited to continue this new Illinois 4-H opportunity creating a platform for 4-H Volunteers from across Illinois to meet virtually and discuss topics of interest, share both ideas and challenges. Volunteers will gain access to tools & techniques to support their volunteer efforts, strengthening 4-H club and member learning experiences. We have two upcoming Café Conversation opportunities coming up in the next few months. We will address two topics during each Café Conversation so bring your ideas, questions, and since this is a Café Conversation, feel free to bring a snack!

### 4-H Volunteer Café Conversation - Thursday, February 18, 2021; 7 PM

TOPICS will include:

1. **It's Cold Outside: Are Your 4-H Clubs Still Hot?**
2. **Let's Play!**

Link to register for the **February 18, 2021** Volunteer Café Conversation:

<https://web.extension.illinois.edu/registration/default.cfm?RegistrationID=22728>

### 4-H Volunteer Café Conversation - Thursday, May 20, 2021; 7 PM

TOPICS will include:

1. **One for the Project, Two for the Show, Three to Get Ready...Go Clover Go!**
2. **Summer Fun!**

Link to register for the **May 20, 2021** Volunteer Café Conversation:

<https://web.extension.illinois.edu/registration/default.cfm?RegistrationID=22738>

Don't forget - all 4-H volunteers and members in leadership roles who participate in 75% (3 of the 4) Volunteer Café Conversations will receive their very own limited edition 4-H Volunteer Café Conversations Ceramic mug! We have had great participation so far and if you have already attended at least one session, you are on your way to receiving your Café Conversations mug!



RETURN TO: Kassy Scates  
University of Illinois Extension  
216 S. Murphy St  
PO Box 177  
Ridgway, IL 62979

## 4-H Program Fee Waiver Form

(one form per 4-H family per year- multiple family members may have their enrollment paid)

Please submit to the County Extension Office after completing the enrollment forms through 4-H Online or along with paper enrollment

4-H member(s) Name: \_\_\_\_\_

4-H Club Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Partial and full scholarships are available to cover the 4-H Program Fee. If you feel that your family can make some contribution to the fee, please indicate the amount.

We are able to provide \$ \_\_\_\_\_ of the \$20 Member 4-H Program Fee.  
(cash or check made payable to University of Illinois)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent/Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Extension Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Gallatin County  
4-H  
Newsletter  
  
County Director:  
Angela  
Messmer  
  
Extension  
Program  
Coordinator:  
Kassy Scates  
  
272-3022  
177 S. Murphy  
PO Box 177  
Ridgway, IL  
62979