

# WILLIAMSON COUNTY 4-H NEWS

## April 2020



### Calendar of Events

<b>April 14</b>	Williamson County Leader Meeting (virtual)
<b>April 15</b>	Swine Ownership Deadline
<b>April 25</b>	National 4-H True Leaders in Service
<b>May 1</b>	Rabbit, Poultry, Goats & Sheep Ownership Deadline 4-H Project Enrollment Deadline Ordering Publications Manual Deadline
<b>June 1</b>	Horse Ownership Deadline
<b>June 2-6</b>	Week 1: Camping at 4-H Memorial Camp
<b>June 7-11</b>	Week 2: Camping at 4-H Memorial Camp
<b>June 15-18</b>	Week 3: Camping at 4-H Memorial Camp
<b>June 18</b>	Small Animal Show
<b>June 21-27</b>	Illini Summer Academies
<b>June 27</b>	4-H County Show
<b>July 27-31</b>	State Fair Junior Horse Show
<b>July 4-11</b>	Citizenship Washington Focus
<b>July 5-9</b>	Week 4: Camping at 4-H Memorial Camp
<b>July 26-30</b>	Week 5: Camping at 4-H Memorial Camp
<b>August 15</b>	IL State Fair



COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, CONSUMER  
& ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES at

[extension.illinois.edu/fjprw](https://extension.illinois.edu/fjprw)

Williamson County: 101-B E De Young St. Marion, IL 62959 | Office Phone: 618-993-3304

## Cancel or Postpone 4-H Club Meetings through May 31, 2020

The impact of the COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) continues to create uncertainty and concern both globally and here in our community. Illinois Extension is in the process of activating strategies with campus to protect everyone's health and safety.

Last week, the University of Illinois announced a suspension on all in-person events and meetings in campus facilities to protect you and our entire community. Illinois Extension, as the outreach program of the university, aligns with all policies related to public health and safety.

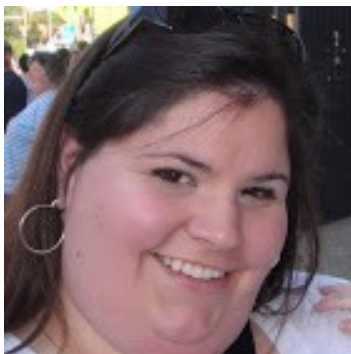
As a result of this action, we are requiring that all 4-H club meetings be cancelled or postponed through **May 31, 2020**. This decision has been made to be consistent with the school closures. We will closely monitor the school closures and other guidance from administration as we determine future action. These decisions are difficult, as we realize there may be many concerns. Please be assured that we will remain flexible during this unique time in our history.

Please watch for specific information about other cancellations and postponements on our website at <https://extension.illinois.edu/fjprw>. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, Ramona Girtman, at 618-305-4285 or [girtman@illinois.edu](mailto:girtman@illinois.edu).

A collection of resources to assist families and community leaders preparing for and coping with COVID-19 is available online at [www.go.illinois.edu/ExtensionCOVID19resources](http://www.go.illinois.edu/ExtensionCOVID19resources).

We are working to support all Illinois families at this time. We appreciate your support and understanding as we navigate this situation.

## New 4-H Staff



Hello! My name is Ramona Kirkikis-Girtman and I am your new 4-H Program Coordinator.

I hold a bachelor's degree from Southern Illinois University – Carbondale in Zoology, with extensive studies in the field of education. I currently live in De Soto with my husband and was blessed to grow up on small farm near Makanda, Illinois where I still work with my family to this day. I, like many, am a proud alumnus of the Boskydell Hustlers 4-H Club of Makanda.

I come to Williamson County 4-H after serving three years as the Jefferson County 4-H and Youth Development Program Coordinator with my programming focused on STEM, healthy living/food access and college & career development. I have a diverse background in serving Franklin, Jackson, Perry, Union and Williamson counties in youth program development during my time with Centerstone of Illinois. I am excited to return to my roots by serving Williamson County again.

### How to Contact Ramona

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## Be a true leader in service

April 25 | Nationwide



Join 4-H members and clubs across Illinois and the nation on **Saturday, April 25** as part of **True Leaders in Service!** 4-H clubs serve their communities all year long however the month of April has been selected as a time for ALL 4-H clubs to join together to roll up their sleeves in service to local communities. This could mean helping a person or family in need doing yard work or minor home repairs, cleaning up streets or parks, planting trees or gardens, supporting your local food pantry or any other project that supports a local need.

Make your plans now on how you'll help others. Find resources @ [go.illinois.edu/4Hdayofservice](http://go.illinois.edu/4Hdayofservice). Later in 2020, you can register your projects there! The goal of the 4-H True Leaders in Service day is to encourage 4-H members in every county to make a positive difference. Service projects can be done by individuals, by 4-H clubs, or as a countywide service project. No matter what the project is, this will be a day to make a difference.

**PLEASE NOTE:** You may register your National Day of Service project and complete it after meeting restrictions have been lifted.

### Virtual Leader Meeting

Spring is here and as always, it includes a lot of change. All 4-H Club Leaders, including Shooting Sports Leaders, are invited to join Ramona for a Leader's Meeting conference call. The agenda will include a touch base on the status of club, a review of club requirements and event planning and some peer sharing around being a club leader amidst COVID-19 precautions.



**Date:** Tuesday, April 14

**Time:** 6 p.m.

**Location:** Comfort of Your Own Home

**Call-in Information:** [+1 888 983 3631](tel:+18889833631) ; Conference ID: 90991372

### Federation—A Call to You!



Hello Federation Members—and anyone interested in joining Federation!

4-H Federation Clubs are designed to give youth an opportunity to lead, serve and advocate within their community. Oftentimes, you hear about the Federation hosting a community service project or a fundraiser.

With so many rapid changes right now, Williamson County 4-H is hosting a virtual meeting for all 4-H Federation members or anyone who is interested in joining Federation. Parents—please feel free to join the call! To be a 4-H Federation member, youth must be at least 13 years old as of September 1 of the current 4-H year. We will discuss cool things Federation has done in Williamson County and brainstorm ideas of what Federation can do in the future.

**Date:** Monday, April 20

**Time:** 2 p.m.

**Location:** Comfort of Your Own Home

**Call-In Information:** [+1 888 983 3631](tel:+18889833631) ; Conference ID: 25787816

## Foundation Hall of Fame ceremony set

The Illinois 4-H Foundation will honor one volunteer leader from each county at a ceremony during the Illinois State Fair. The celebration begins at 3 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 18 as part of Ag Day at the fair right before the Sale of Champions activities begin. Supporters and families of the recipients are welcome to attend.

## Look for these changes at the Illinois State Fair

With the timing of the state fair and the anticipated start of school, the 4-H General Project Show at the state fair has been condensed to three days: Aug. 14, 15, and 16.

Exhibits must be in place by 9:30 AM and remain on display **until 4 PM**. (new release time)

The awards will include **Champion Medals** for the highest score in each project class and **Reserve Medals** for the second highest score in each class. Cash premiums from the state will be paid to the medal winners. **Innovation Awards** will be given to exhibits judges find inspiring, innovative, or creative and are not based on scores. Medal winners cannot receive the innovation award in 2020.

**New projects** at the state fair include: Child Development, Leather, Sports Nutrition, Family Heritage, and Shooting Sports

The **State 4-H Public Speaking Contest** will be held at the same time as the state fair. Youth can compete in a speech and also bring a project to the General Project Show. Youth must be selected in their county contest to advance and will speak the same day as their county exhibit day.

**Ewe lambs** are now eligible for the premier show.

Steers advancing to state fair **must be weighed by Feb. 29**.

The **junior poultry show** begins Monday, Aug. 17.

The **State 4-H Poultry Judging Contest** will be held at the state fair on Monday, Aug. 17.

The **junior rabbit show** begins August 17.

Check out all the livestock ownership deadlines online @ [go.illinois.edu/4Hlivestock](https://go.illinois.edu/4Hlivestock).

**Our exhibit day is Saturday, August 15.**

## How strong is your 4-H family spirit?



The Illinois 4-H Foundation welcomes nominations for the 2020 4-H Family Spirit Award. The Illinois 4-H Family Spirit Award recognizes a family with at least three generations and at least 15 different family members (including in-laws) that have either been 4-H members, leaders, or volunteers with at least 100 cumulative years of 4-H membership or volunteerism represented within the family. Selection is based on the total number of family members with 4-H connections, the total number of years of 4-H involvement, the diversity of experiences and recognitions earned by the 4-H members, and the collective impact that family members have made as advocates of their county and state 4-H programs.

On-line applications are available at: [4hfoundation.illinois.edu/content/family-spirit-award](https://4hfoundation.illinois.edu/content/family-spirit-award). **Nominations are due May 1.**