



University of Illinois- Extension
 2998 W. Pearl City Rd.
 Freeport, IL 61032

2024 4-H Fair Briefing



Staff Greeting

Hello 4-H Families,

Summer is right around the corner and here at the Extension office we are gearing up for all the 4-H shows! I hope you are excited for this year's 4-H shows, just like I am!

In our 4-H building at the fair, we will continue to pack it full of your 4-H projects to show to all the fair-goers, along with our Champion board, games, activities, a silent auction, and a CAN food drive! We want to create a fun, creative and farm-friendly atmosphere for all who attend the Stephenson County Fair!!! We will be changing activities daily throughout the building, so we encourage you to bring your family and friends through each day that you're out at the fair!

We are asking all families to leave as many of your general projects at the 4-H shows, so we can display them during the fair! Since General Projects day is the week before the fair, we can keep them in our building and do not have to move them around.

This Fair Briefing is full of important and useful information to help prepare you for the upcoming shows. Make sure you read your e-mail from May 13 that is titled "Fair Entry." This has all the information in it that you need to know, in order to create a fair entry account, if you are new or how to access it if you are a returning 4-H member. Remember- fair entry is where you tell me what your child is bringing to the 4-H shows. If you do not enroll in fair entry and sign up for your classes by June 7, we will not be expecting you at the show dates.

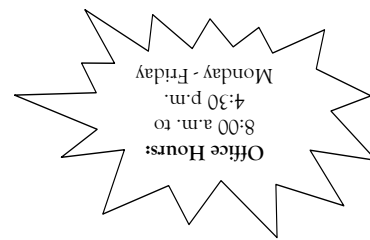
Please do not hesitate to contact me at 815-235-4125, with any questions—I would rather answer your questions now before the shows, than to see a disappointed 4-H'er on show day!

I look forward to seeing all of you at the 2024 4-H Shows. Good luck, work hard, and have fun!

~Brenda

Office Closed:

The University of Illinois Extension Office will be closed on Monday, May 27 in observance of Memorial Day, Wednesday, June 19, and Thursday, July 4 in observance of Independence Day.



If you need reasonable accommodations to participate in any program offered in this newsletter, please call 815-235-4125

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ILLINOIS
 Extension
 COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, CONSUMER & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES
 U.S. Department of Agriculture
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This is your 4-H Show Briefing!

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All Projects must be checked-in NO later than 10 AM on the July 17 & July 22 shows at the Fairgrounds. If you are showing in many different areas, we recommend that you check all your projects in to their judging areas before you start to talk with judges.

2024 4-H HAY BALE CONTEST



- **Choose a theme**
- **Make sure your club's name is represented either on or near your bale**
- **Make sure you are promoting 4-H**
- **Be Creative & original in your design!**



Prizes for 1st, 2nd , and 3rd placings & People's Choice



Check with your Club leader for more details!



STEPHENSON COUNTY



4-H CAN Drive



4-H Ambassadors are holding a CAN drive for the local Stephenson County Food Pantries, during the Stephenson County Fair. We will have boxes at the Extension office & inside our fair building for drop-off.

Please help us reach our goal of 1500 cans!!!



General Information

WHAT 4-H IS REALLY ABOUT!

Please remember that there is more to 4-H than blue, red, and white ribbons. Champion ribbons and awards are nice too, but there is much more than a ribbon gained from being in 4-H. As shows come and go, please evaluate your learning! Did you enjoy the project? Did you challenge yourself? What improvements could you make for next year? Did your project turn out how you envisioned it would? 4-H is about “learning by doing.” What you put into the 4-H program will determine what you get out of it! Take advantage of the many opportunities 4-H has to offer!

4-H’ERS BUILD SELF-ESTEEM BY DOING OWN WORK

As 4-H’ers plan and prepare their exhibits for the 4-H shows, we would like to encourage parents to remember to allow the members to do their own work. While it is OK for mom and dad to give a few suggestions, or maybe a little help, it is even more important to allow the 4-H’er to do his or her own work. Exhibiting is a time for judges to see the work of the 4-H members, not the parents’ work. Our judges want to know what the 4-H’ers have learned and how they completed the projects, not what they watched their parents complete. Please remember, 4-H is for youth and your 4-H members will only grow from the experience if they do their own work. While the 4-H program is a family organization, this is one of those times where the family should show their support through their words of encouragement! Let’s help our 4-H members grow and blossom into independent, young adults!

2024 4-H SHOW BOOK

Please take time to review your 4-H Show Book pages **BEFORE** you begin your project and before the day of the show. Many projects and guidelines change from year to year, so please make sure you are up-to-date on all exhibit requirements (i.e. size restrictions, quantities, materials, etc.). If you are unsure, contact Brenda at the Extension office, 815-235-4125.

4-H AWARDS - THANK YOU

Each year we reach out to sponsors and ask for donations to help sponsor the choice awards that are given at each 4-H show. If you are a recipient of one of these awards, you will receive a “Choice Award” envelope at the **Family Fun Night, July 23 at 6 p.m. in the 4-H Building**. It is the responsibility of each 4-H member who wins one of these awards to write a thank-you to the sponsor. On the envelope of your Choice Award you will find the name and address of your sponsor. Please make sure you take the time to write them a thank you in a timely fashion following the shows. Pictures are encouraged, but not required.



ENROLLMENT DEADLINE

Project entry deadline for Stephenson County is **JUNE 7 @ 11:59 p.m.** Entries must be made using <https://stephenson4hfair.fairentry.com> and instructions can be found on our county website at: <https://extension.illinois.edu/jsw/4-h-stephenson-county>

General Information

2024 STEPHENSON COUNTY SHOW NOTES & CHANGES from Last Year

Please review the following information - as it affects ALL 4-H'ers!

For more information regarding any of these changes, please read your 2024 4-H Program Book or call the Extension Office at 815-235-4125.

CHANGES AHEAD



- ◆ **The deadline to register all projects in Fair Entry is June 7, 2024.**
- ◆ All 4-H Shows will take place at the Stephenson County Fairgrounds, 2250 S. Walnut Rd. Freeport, IL. Except for Sewing & Textiles, Flower Arranging, & Food Decorating/ Candy Making which is Friday, July 19 and will be held at the Extension Office- Highland Community College Campus, Building R- 2998 W. Pearl City Rd. Freeport, IL. (Please refer to that section for more info.)
- ◆ The Illinois State Fair exhibit date for Stephenson County is **Friday, August 9, 2024.**
- ◆ Civic Engagement has a group exhibit now.
- ◆ Esports & Maker are both State eligible.
- ◆ 3-D Printing and 3-D Design is added to our project area- Maker, and is County Only.
- ◆ Foods & Nutrition has added wording to all classes 101-401 in reference to additions or substitutions to recipes- PLEASE READ for clarification in your program book pages 93-95. Foods Preservation, also has made changes to pickles/relishes & how to date your products.
- ◆ Health has changed the project requirements for all their classes.
- ◆ Horticulture has 2 new County Only projects: Most Unusual or Odd Shaped Vegetable or Fruit & Decorated Vegetable or Fruit. You must have enrolled in a Horticulture project in order to show in one of these classes.
- ◆ Intercultural has made changes to their project area, and has added a Diversity & Cultural Awareness Class for both individual and group.
- ◆ Natural Resources has added Exploring your Environment as a State Eligible class.
- ◆ Photography 2 has several changes to the size of item allowed for show, please read carefully.
- ◆ Plant & Soils has changed the class requirements for all 3 levels.
- ◆ Ready4Life is it's own division this year. It has 2 classes: Career and Entrepreneurship Exploration. Age restrictions is 11 years old (4-H age, as of September 1, 2023)
- ◆ Service Learning is under a new name: Community Service. A group exhibit area has been added too.
- ◆ Shooting Sports is a project area this year. Read the guidelines carefully. You **MUST** have participated in the Archery Club in order to show in this area.
- ◆ Theatre Arts has changed their level 1 project requirements and has added a level 2 to the project area.
- ◆ Visual Arts- Decorated Egg Class, County Only is also new this year. You must have enrolled in a Visual Arts area in order to show in this class, and the eggs used for show- need to come from your own flock.
- ◆ Visual Arts- Scrapbooking has added clearer guidelines to all 3 levels.
- ◆ Visual Arts- Food Decorating, please read the "Use of Clover" under #12 on page 85 of your program book, if using a clover with any of your decorating.
- ◆ Woodworking levels 1-4 have specific requirements of tools that can be used for each level, make sure you read page 77 for clarification, before you enter in fair entry.

Please refer to your 2024 Program Book for clarification on these changes

CLOVERBUD RODEO

Bring a Friend!
Enjoy a Popsicle
and goodie bags from the 4-H!



BARREL RACES
WAGON RACES
WATER RELAY
FEED THE PIG

AGES 5-7 JOIN US
FRIDAY JULY
26TH @1 P.M.

At the 4-H Building at the Stephenson
County Fairgrounds



4-H BUILDING ARTS & CRAFTS



Stop on over to the commercial building, closest to the midway and join in on some 4-H fun!



Wednesday - Friday

July 24-26, 2024

3-4 p.m.- daily

Each Day we will offer something different:

- Arts n crafts
- Legos N STEM
- Hands-on learning



University of Illinois Extension provides educational programs and research-based information to help Illinois residents improve their quality of life, develop skills and solve problems. If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this program, please call the U of I Extension office, 815-235-4125. Early requests are strongly encouraged to allow sufficient time for meeting your access needs. University of Illinois Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment. University of Illinois College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences – United States Department of Agriculture – Local Extension Councils Cooperating.

Show & Fair Prep

FairEntry.com REGISTRATION

Don't forget that registrations for ALL shows and classes must be done using *FairEntry.com* online registration process. **The deadline to register is 11:59 p.m. on June 7, 2024.** If you fail to register by that date, the database will close and you will not be allowed to exhibit. For instructions on how to enroll, please check your e-mail from May 13 to find a copy of the instructions. **It is YOUR responsibility to make sure you are registered to exhibit in the correct class(es).** If you have any questions about registering, you may contact Brenda in the Extension Office at 815-235-4125.

The fair entry website is: <https://stephenson4-hfair.fairentry.com>

CONFERENCE JUDGING:

If you are showing at any of the shows, you have a great experience ahead of you! You will have the opportunity to participate in "conference judging." This unique type of judging gives you the chance to talk to the judges so they can find out what you've learned! The judges will consider what you've told them when assigning your ribbon placement and choosing champions!

Here are some things to remember as you prepare:

- ◆ Your exhibit offers a display of what you are capable of doing.
- ◆ The judges will be looking for positive learning. Tell them about your exhibit and your mistakes and how you have learned from them when you completed your project this year.
- ◆ The judge will be evaluating your exhibit and what you've learned - not YOU as a person.
- ◆ Your project will be evaluated against the blue ribbon standard. You won't be competing with others for your blue, red or white rating ribbon. Competition with other members is only involved when the Champion, Reserve Champion, Award and State Fair winners are selected.
- ◆ Your biggest competitor is YOU!
- ◆ Most importantly, READ the rules and guidelines in your 4-H Show Book pages. Be certain you have followed the established rules for the class you have entered.

Questions the judge may ask you:

- ◆ Did you enjoy working on this project? Why?
- ◆ What was the easiest or hardest thing you did?
- ◆ Why did you choose this exhibit?
- ◆ Who assisted you with this project?
- ◆ Tell me about the kinds of materials you used.
- ◆ What part of the exhibit do you feel you could improve? Why?

If you prepare a neat and creative exhibit, you'll be ready to tell the judge a lot. If you've followed the rules in your project area, you have nothing to worry about! Conference Judging will be a fun, learning experience for you!

If your child needs an accommodation for judging, please let Brenda know as soon as possible to make sure we have time to make those arrangements. Preferably no later than July 1.



4-H Building- Information

Set- Up & Tear Down for 4-H Shows

We need your help setting up for General Projects Day & tearing down after the fair. A lot of the work involves carrying tables and chairs and setting them up. Many hands makes this work lighter!!! This year we are assigning 5 clubs to Set Up and 5 clubs to Tear Down. Please check with your 4-H leader on the shift your club is signed up for. We are asking for at least 1 family (1 adult and 3 4-H'ers (8 and older) from each club.)

Tuesday, July 16 from 8 a.m.–11 a.m.—Set-Up

Sunday, July 28 from 1p.m.—3 p.m.—Tear-Down

Your help is greatly appreciated!



- We are in need of volunteers to help be Hosts of our 4-H building during the Stephenson County Fair. E-mail Brenda if you would like to help with a shift: bheimann@illinois.edu.

- We need your projects! After the General Projects day show, we would love for you to leave your projects, so we can display them during the fair. Project pick-up will be on July 28, from 1-3 p.m. Help us fill up our 4-H building, and show our county what Stephenson County 4-H'ers are all about!



4-H FAMILY NIGHT



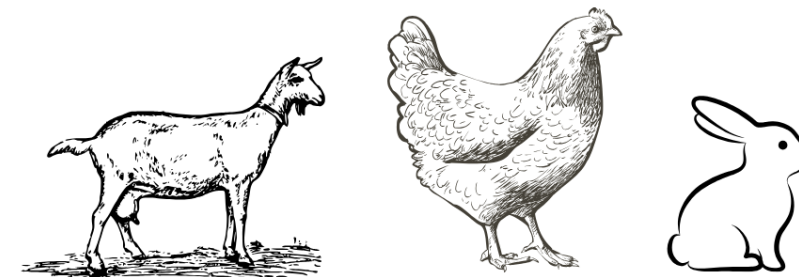
AT THE FAIR



Date: Tuesday, July 23

Time: 6 p.m.

Location: 4-H Building (C-2)



- Trophy Winners will be announced
- Games & Activities
- 4-H Hall of Fame Recognition
- Diamond & Emerald Clover Recognition
- Show your family what you made
- Enjoy a Root Beer Float



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Other Important Information

REMINDER: SEND THOSE THANK-YOU NOTES

A number of 4-H'ers will be awarded trophies, prizes, cash and other awards during 4-H shows and throughout the 4-H year. Be sure to take a few minutes to write the sponsor(s) a thank-you note for any award you receive. This includes those who contributed to the livestock sale and those volunteers who gave their time to help with the 4-H shows. Without their help, we could not have successful 4-H shows.

At this year's Family Fun Night we will be handing out your "choice award" letter with your award sponsors address on the envelope. We hope you will take a few minutes after the fair to send them a thank you!



Thank you to all our volunteers, leaders, superintendents, judges, & recorders for all your help with getting our shows ready, helping on the day of, and tearing down after it's all over. Without your time & dedication to the 4-H program, it would not be the success that it is today!

We appreciate all that you do for our youth of Stephenson County!

COUNTY FAIR PASSES

FAIR PASSES FOR 4-H MEMBERS

The Extension office will provide a fair pass to any 4-H Member who is showing at a 4-H show. You must sign up in fair entry with your project & then show your project at the 4-H show to get your free fair pass. The fair passes will be at each General Projects show available for pick up. Each family is responsible for their pass pick up, unless they make prior arrangements with Brenda.

On Wednesday, July 17 and Monday, July 22- the fair passes will be available in the 4-H Building during the 4-H shows at the 4-H table.

On Friday, July 19- the fair passes will be available at the Extension Office during the Sewing, Food Decorating, & Flower Arranging Shows—at the check-in table.

Livestock Members- if you are only showing livestock and will not be at the other shows, please make arrangements with Brenda on how to get your pass, before Tuesday, July 23.

All 4-H members are eligible for a pass this year, as long as you are showing in (1) 4-H show.

Special Instructions For Fair Projects

Make sure you read the directions in the program book for dimensions & sizes that your project is allowed. Not only is this necessary for spacing on our tables, but MOST times they are also the State requirements. If you get selected to the State Fair and your project is not the right size you will get a lower score at judging time.

Correction to the 2024 Program Book—

Natural Resources- Exploring Your Environment- Please disregard the "Exploring the Environment" project description on page 60 of your Program Book. That should have been deleted. The correct guidelines for Exploring the Environment are on page 58 and this project is now State Eligible.

2024 STEPHENSON COUNTY 4-H SHOW SCHEDULE

4-H Calendar of Events for 2024



- April 3 -** Public Presentation Contest (HCC- Bldg R,) 6 PM
- June 22 -** 4-H Dog Show (4-H Building, Fairgrounds) 9 AM
4-H Cat Show (Dining Hall, Fairgrounds) 9 AM
- July 17 -** General Projects Day (Stephenson County Fairgrounds) 9 AM- Noon
- July 19 -** 4-H Shows (At Highland Community College, Extension Office
Clothing & Textile, 9 AM
Candy Making & Decorated Cookies/Cupcakes/Cake 10 AM
Flower Arranging Contest 12:45 PM
- July 20 -** 4-H Horse Show – Stephenson County Fairgrounds, at the Horse Arena
7:00 - 8:00 a.m. Check-in, Show starts at 8:30 AM
- July 22 -** 4-H Shows: Crops, Foods, Horticulture & Floriculture
(4-H Building, Fairgrounds) 9 AM - Noon
4-H Cloverbud Show (4-H Building, Fairgrounds) 1 PM
- July 23 -** 4-H Rabbit & Cavy Show (Rabbit building, Fairgrounds) 8:30 AM
4-H Poultry Show (Poultry Barn, Fairgrounds) 8:45 AM
4-H Beef Show (Beef Show Ring, Fairgrounds) 9 AM
4-H Sheep Show (Sheep Show Ring, Fairgrounds) 9 AM
4-H Swine Show (Swine Show Ring, Fairgrounds) 9 AM
4-H Dairy Show (Dairy Show Ring, Fairgrounds) 9:30 AM
4-H Dairy Goat Show (Goat Barn, Fairgrounds) 9:30 AM
4-H Meat Goat Show will follow the Dairy Goat Show
- July 27 -** 4-H Master Showmanship Contest, Swine Show Ring, 1 PM

STATE FAIR JUDGING will be held on Friday, August 9, 2024 in Springfield, IL

State Fair Information

State Fair Schedule– Friday, August 9

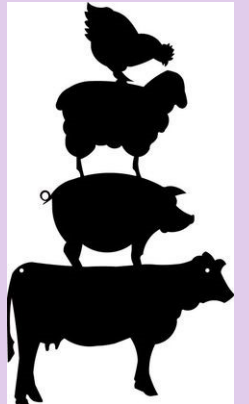
- 8-9 a.m.—Project Drop off
9:00 a.m.– Interviews begin
3:00 p.m.— Judging Ends
3:30 p.m.—Projects Released– (throughout the day they will be releasing them too)
Families have the option of when to pick up projects.
4:30 p.m.– All Projects MUST be gone



STATE FAIR ADMISSION

The Illinois State Fair is no longer offering advance parking tickets to 4-Hers. State Fair exhibitors will pay for parking at the gate like all Fair attendees and there is no designated parking lot for 4-H members. The Illinois State Fair gives 25 Loading/Unloading passes to each county. These will be given out on a first come first served basis and we ask that anyone with a small, portable project refrain from requesting a pass. **NO CARS WILL BE ALLOWED** to remain in LOT 1.

You may purchase Ticket Passes for the State Fair, through the Extension office. They are on a first-come, first-serve basis. Brenda will have them available at the 4-H table at all 4-H shows & during the week of the fair. Cash or check is accepted.



State 4-H Dog Show is August 24 at the Granny Rose K-9 Enrichment Center, Dixon, IL

State 4-H Livestock Judging Contest– U of I Stock Pavilion– Monday, June 17

State 4-H Dairy Judging Contest—Open Livestock Center –August 17

State Fair Livestock Shows– August 9-11

Poultry Show—Barn #26– August 8– one day in/out show

Rabbit Show– barn #26 –August 10—one day in/out show

Horse & Pony Show

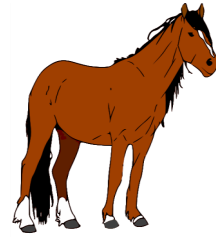
Date: Saturday, July 20

Location: Stephenson County Fairgrounds

Time: Check- In time 7:00 AM

Show Time: 8:30 AM

- ♦ Rain or Shine this show will take place at the Stephenson County Fairgrounds. We will use the Beef Arena, if it rains.



HELMET REMINDER FOR HORSE PROJECT MEMBERS

This is a reminder that approved protective head gear, with safety strap (fastened and buckled), are required by ALL RIDERS WHENEVER MOUNTED. Helmets must meet ASTM/SEI standards. This goes for all horse clinics and the Horse Show for Stephenson County 4-H.



- Remember to bring your Coggins papers with you to check-in—you cannot show without them!
- Check over all the rules & regulations on Page 120-121 in your show book and make sure you understand the classes and procedures for the event.
- If you have questions about the changes, or your not sure which class you need, Call Brenda at the Extension office before fair entry closes on June 7.
- Please share the horse show date with family friends we would love to see the bleachers full. We will have the Benchwarmers Food Truck at our show serving food!



GENERAL PROJECTS DAY

Check-in for Judging Instructions -

- General Projects Day is scheduled for Wednesday, July 17. The day will begin at 9:00 a.m.
- When you arrive at the Fairgrounds, you will want to find your child's project area(s) and **check -in** their project. At check-in you will be given a time to return to that table for judging. The sooner you arrive, the quicker you should be judged.
- **ALL PROJECTS** must be checked-in by 10 a.m. to their project areas or we will assume you are not showing & your project will not be State Fair eligible. **If you have numerous projects, please check them all in, before you start to speak with judges.**
- At check-in you will receive an exhibit tag for your project, please attach it to your project with either tape or string. This is how we know who to return the project too after fair.

Accommodations for General Projects Day—

- If you have decided not to show in a specific area, after you registered in fair entry, please let Brenda know in the Extension office that you are NOT bringing that particular project anymore. We will cross your name off before the day arrives
- Any 4-H'er that is not able to attend General Projects Day but still wants his/her project judged will need to refer to rule #7 on page 8 in the Policies section of the 4-H Show Book. This applies to ALL projects except livestock. Please remember....this is conference-style judging, so there is the chance the 4-H'er may not receive the highest rating due to the fact that the judge is not able to ask questions of the 4-H'er and may not fully know what was accomplished or learned by doing the project. You may have another 4-H member bring your project to be judged, BUT make sure you include your Absentee form with it. The Absentee Form is on page 138 of the 4-H Show Book.

Judging Times is for 4-H'ers ONLY!

* When it is your child's time to be judged. Only the child & their project will be allowed at the judging table. If your child needs an accommodation to meet their needs, please contact Brenda, by July 1, at 815-235-4125.

No Parents are allowed at the judging tables. This is conference judging and is meant for the child to tell the judge what they did and how.

GENERAL PROJECTS DAY

4-H PROJECT DISPLAYS STAYING in the FAIR BUILDING

In order to increase the public's awareness about the wide variety of amazing projects our 4-H'ers do and to help promote 4-H, the following guidelines will be followed for exhibiting your project(s) during the fair week:

- If you are leaving your 4-H project(s) for fair week, after Champion placings have been made in your project area, please help transport your project to the designated area in the 4-H building for all projects that will be staying for fair week. You will check-in your project with the person in charge, they will highlight your name, so we know we are keeping that project for fair week.
- Make sure your exhibit tag is attached to your project, by either tape or string. Take your ribbons home with you.
- The exhibitor or someone from your family **MUST** pick up the project at the fairgrounds on July 28 between 1-3 p.m. We will not be bringing any projects back to the Extension Office.

STATE FAIR DELEGATES

Stephenson County's Day at the State Fair is Friday, August 9.

- Each project area per county, is allowed to send a specific number of projects to the State Fair each year. After judging is complete, and projects have been awarded their ribbons, judges will decide which projects to send to the State Fair.
- If your project is chosen you will be given a large postcard that says "STATE FAIR DELEGATE." This card must be filled out and returned to the 4-H Table in the 4-H building no later than **Thursday, July 25 at 4 pm.**
- Each 4-H member can only take 1 project to the State Fair. (this does not include group projects, public speaking, and dog). If your child should win in more than 1 area for State Fair they will need to choose which project they are taking.
- **STATE FAIR ALTERNATE:**
- If you receive a large postcard that says: "STATE FAIR ALTERNATE" you need to check to the correct box and turn it in by **Thursday, July 25 at 4 pm** as well. If the State Delegate for your project area should decline to go to state, Brenda will contact you, if you checked "yes" you would like to go to the State Fair on your postcard.
- As an Alternate, you will be contacted no later than Friday, July 26 if the State Delegate of your project area declined going. Brenda will be the person who will phone a parent about this request.

Show & Fair Prep

LIVESTOCK ENTRIES

General Rules and Reminders for all animal areas:

Make sure you read all health requirements for your animals (Show Book pgs. 131-137. You are responsible for following all requirements!

The Extension Office will email all health forms for poultry, rabbits and guinea pigs (cavy) to members prior to the show. Certificate of Veterinarian Inspection (CVI) forms for cats, beef and dairy heifers, sheep, swine, and goats must be obtained from your veterinarian within 90 days prior to the show. These forms **MUST** accompany the animal to the show.

GUIDELINES FOR ALL 4-H ANIMAL PROJECTS

County rules specify that each exhibitor personally care for the animal(s) during the feeding period or required tenure of ownership. It also states that all purebred animals must be registered in the name of the 4-H Owner/Lessor. **The original copy of the registration papers MUST be available for inspection by the department superintendent before show time - NO EXCEPTIONS - they will be checked!**

All animals entered for exhibit in the Stephenson County 4-H Shows must be owned/leased by the 4-H Exhibitor and must have been personally cared for by that 4-H Owner-Exhibitor during the current 4-H year.

We encourage you to invite your family, grandparents, & friends to come out and watch the 4-H Livestock shows on July 23.



Animal Information

ANIMAL WELFARE

Prepared by Dan Jennings, Animal Systems Extension Educator

Fair season is rapidly approaching once again. 4-H youth should be sure to present their animal projects to the benefit of the animal and the public. This behavior is encouraged both in and out of the show ring.

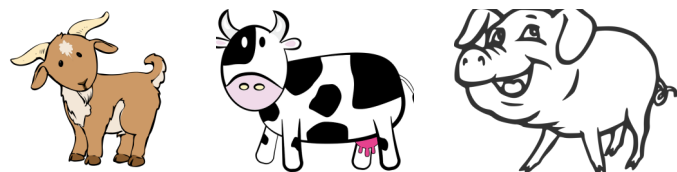
Animal welfare is a growing concern in this country today and warrants some attention during county fairs and any other 4-H livestock events. Livestock exhibitors should be aware of the fact that animal welfare and animal rights groups have been known to show up at county fair livestock events. Therefore, it is imperative that we show all general audiences at these livestock events that we, as keepers of animals, do know the right way to raise and care for our animals. This is something we should be doing regardless of who is watching!

While we are at the fair showing livestock we are under the watchful eye of the general public. This gives us a great opportunity to show people the method in which we care for our livestock.

The following is a list of guidelines that should be helpful in preventing any misconceptions that the public or any special interest groups may have about the way your livestock are raised. The proper care of animals should receive primary attention. Please follow these guidelines:

- o Always provide clean, fresh water.
- o Keep your pens clean and dry with good bedding at all times.
- o Be aware of animal comfort zones (i.e. temperature, space).
- o Sort and load animals safely and with concern for them.
- o Train animals to lead or be handled at a young age before the fair; this will make them more manageable at the fair.
- o Arrange for veterinary care in case of an emergency.
- o Handle animals in a very humane way.
- o Adhere to all antibiotic, drug, and water or feed additive withdrawal times.
- o Animals should be fed on a routine basis.
- o Avoid stressing the animal.
- o Keep animals clean, a clean animal is viewed as a healthy animal.
- o Use show sticks, whips, and canes for showing only and try to use them as gently as possible. Never use electric prods.
- o Review your 4-H project manual and follow the care recommendations. This is also a good way to answer any questions the public may have.
- o Have a plan of action if a problem should arise and who to contact to help solve it or answer any questions.
- o Know who and where fair officials are and how to get in contact with them.
- o If questioned about animal care by a stranger, remain calm, be polite, answer the question the best you can, don't argue, and refer them to the Department Superintendent, or Extension Staff member, if you are unable to answer their questions.

You are 4-H to the public...show it! Have a great showing season and good luck!!



General Projects Day- Map for Project Areas- July 17

Commercial 1 (C1)

- Photography
- Communications
- Civic Engagement
- College & Career Readiness
 - Exploratory
 - Collectibles
 - Consumer Ed.
 - Family Heritage
 - Intercultural
 - Leadership
- Computer Science
 - Esports
 - Maker
 - Robotics
 - Bicycle
- Child Development
 - Health
- Interior Design
 - Theatre Arts
- Natural Resources—all categories

Commercial 2- (C2) 4-H Bldg.

- Tractor/Ag Restoration
 - Small Engines
 - Welding
 - Aerospace
 - Electricity
 - Weather
- Animals Sciences
 - Vet Sciences
 - Woodworking
- Visual Arts—all categories



Feel free to bring lawn chairs or blankets to sit on while waiting for your child to be judged. In order for the building to be semi-quiet we will be asking that families & siblings stay outside as much as possible while the judging is taking place.

Friday, July 19

Sewing & Textiles, Food Decorating, & Flower Arranging

Date: July 19

Location: Extension Office- Highland Community College Campus- Building R- 2998 W. Pearl City Rd. Freeport.

Check-In Times:

8:45 a.m.- Sewing & Textiles

9:45 a.m. – Candy Making

10:15 a.m. – Food Decorating

12:45 p.m.- Flower Arranging

- We will be using the South & Middle Lobby in Building R for these shows. Please watch for signs once you enter the building on where to check in your project.
- Please show up by the check in time.
- Food Decorating will start promptly at 10:30 a.m.
- If you are late to your decorating time time (listed above) no added time is given.
- Review pages 80-87 in your 4-H Show book to make sure you have all the necessary items for your project when you come.
- There will be no access to refrigerators.
- Sewing projects can be left with Brenda to be put on display for the Stephenson County Fair the following week.



Animal Information

IMPORTANT CHANGE to HEALTH PAPERS for LIVESTOCK-

Illinois Steers now are required to have a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection for all County and State fairs. Please make sure you add this to your to-do list when you have the vet out to your farm. If you have questions regarding this change, please reach out to Brenda, 815-235-4125.



LIVESTOCK SHOWMANSHIP RULES

If you are exhibiting animals at one of the 4-H Livestock shows make sure you read and understand the Showmanship Rules. The rules can be found on page 110 in your 2024 4-H Show Book.

If you do not understand any of the rules, contact Brenda at the Extension Office at 815-235-4125 and ask. There are no stupid questions! Ask *BEFORE* you get to the show so you know what to expect and there are no surprises or disappointments.

4-H MASTER SHOWMANSHIP CONTEST

The Master Showmanship Contest will be held again at the 2024 Stephenson County Fair for 4-H members ages 14-18 currently enrolled in ANY livestock project area. The contest is being coordinated by Stephenson County 4-H and Stephenson County Farm Bureau. The winner of the local competition will represent Stephenson County at the Illinois State Fair on Friday, August 9 at 5:00 p.m. For more information about this awesome event, contact Brenda at the Extension office 815-235-4125 or stop by the 4-H Table in 4-H building, no later than Wednesday, July 24 to sign up.

POULTRY EXHIBITORS-

We are truly happy that we are able to have a live Poultry show this year again! Please remember that in order for your bird to be judged you must be present. If the judge gets to your bird and you are showing in another ring, you will be skipped. Make sure you notify the Superintendent when you arrive back to the poultry barn, so they can work you in.

4-H Livestock Shows

CHECK IN TIMES

*Monday, July 22-

- Beef Weigh-In— 5-6 PM (if arrival will be after 6pm, please contact Barb Curry at 815-541-5642, so we know you are coming.)
- Dairy Check- In—7-10 PM
- Goat Check- In— 6-8 PM
- Poultry Check-In—5:30-7:30 PM
- Swine Weigh-In—4-7 PM

*Tuesday, July 23 -

Sheep—may arrive on Monday, but Check in will not be until 7-8:30 a.m. Tuesday morning.-

*Rabbits Arrive -8:00 AM

• 4-H Livestock Show Times —Tuesday, July 23

8:30 AM- 4-H Rabbit Show

8:45 AM—Poultry Show

9:00 AM—4-H Beef Show

9:00 AM—4-H Swine Show

9:00 AM— 4-H Sheep Show

9:30 AM- 4-H Dairy Show

9:30 AM—4-H Dairy Goat Show

****Meat Goat Show will follow the Dairy Goat Show****

- ♦ Make sure you have all your health & registrations papers the day you arrive. They will be checked at check-in.
- ♦ In order to show beef, dairy, goats, sheep, & swine the 4-H member must have completed their YQCA training by June 1st, and have submitted their certificate to the Extension office by that date, as well.
- ♦ In order to show Cat, Dog, Rabbits/Cavy, Poultry, & Horse/Pony, the 4-H Member must have taken their QAEC training, at least once in their 4-H career, by June 1st.

Crops, Horticulture, Floriculture, & Foods— July 22

Date: Monday, July 22

Location: 4-H Building, Fairgrounds

Time: 9 a.m. (check-in NO later than 10 a.m.)

- Judging will start at 9 a.m.
- All projects **MUST** be checked in at their project table no later than 10 a.m. (if you arrive after this time, your project will not be State Fair Eligible. Please check all your projects in, before you start to be judged.
- We encourage you to leave your projects for us to display for fair week. PLEASE NOTE: when the food and vegetables get wilted or spoil, we will throw them out.
- Please make sure you tape your exhibit tag to your project before leaving it. Our fairgoers like to see who made the project when they are walking through the buildings.
- Take your ribbons with you, please do not leave them on your projects.

Cloverbuds— July 22

Time: 1:00 -2:30 p.m. (Check-in no later than 2:15 p.m.)

Location: 4-H Building, Fairgrounds

- Check pages 106-107 of your show book, to see what items you NEED to bring with you to the show.
- All projects MUST have their Project Manual with them at the time of the show. If you don't have one, contact Brenda right away to get one- 815-235-4125.
- Our Cloverbud judges are all older 4-H Members.
- The judges will talk with your child and ask them simple questions about their projects: Who helped you with your project? Did you have fun while doing it? What was your favorite part about this project? Talk with your child before the show to help them understand and feel comfortable when their time comes to talk to the judge.
- Parents can stay in the building while their child is talking with the judge, but please let your child talk with the judge without your help.
- We encourage you to leave your child's project for us to put on display in our 4-H building for the week of the fair. Pick-up will be Sunday, July 28 from 1-3 p.m.

