The 4-H Value of the Show
As 4-H volunteers, you know that Illinois 4-H shows, fairs, and expositions serve as vehicles to foster important life skill development in youth. 4-H exhibitions help to: 1) enhance the project learning experiences of 4-H youth and volunteer leaders; 2) facilitate evaluation, both non-competitive and competitive; and 3) publicly showcase evidence of 4-H project mastery.

Public exhibitions help to recognize 4-H youth for their individual and group achievements. 4-H shows, fairs, and expositions give the public an opportunity to see what 4-H is about. Many 4-H exhibitions provide opportunities for Extension to partner with local community groups to offer high quality learning experiences. Thank you for being a part of this important experience for the youth in your county and the entire community.

Save the Date!
The Illinois 4-H Family Event at Illinois State Fair is scheduled for Saturday, August 10 at 4 p.m. on the Director of Agriculture’s Lawn. Keep your eyes open for special announcements regarding this fun evening.

Club/Group Award Applications
State 4-H Club/Group Report Forms, submitted through the local Extension office are due to the State 4-H Office no later than 5:00 p.m. on August 15, 2013, so local Extension offices will have earlier deadlines! The form is posted at http://web.extension.illinois.edu/state4h/volunteers/support_recognition.cfm. State award-winning clubs will receive state recognition, a state award patch, and $75 if they place in the Top Ten of any of the seven eligible curriculum areas. Applications must be submitted from a club member and a volunteer and must demonstrate youth leadership, project area development, and more.

Calling Illinois 4-H Teens!! Leadership Opportunities Available
Applications for four state level youth leadership opportunities are available on the 4-H website.
- Illinois Farm Bureau Youth Education Committee 4-H Representatives – http://web.extension.illinois.edu/state4h/members/leadership_ifbye.cfm. Application deadline is June 15.
- Illinois State 4-H Youth Leadership Team http://web.extension.illinois.edu/state4h/members/leadership_sylt.cfm. Applications are due June 15 for interviews at the Illini Summer Academies or August 1 for interviews at State Fair.
- 2014 Illini Summer Academies Planning Committee - Due August 1: http://web.extension.illinois.edu/state4h/members/leadership_isapc.cfm.
- 2014 4-H Great Debate Planning Committee – Due September 1 Look for a new 4-H Great Debate P.C. application link on: http://web.extension.illinois.edu/state4h/members/leadership.cfm.

Salute to Ag Day!
Plan on bringing your 4-H members to the University of Illinois on Saturday, September 7 and help the College of ACES celebrate agriculture! Come cheer on the Illini against the Cincinnati Bearcats! Registration will open mid-summer once kick-off time has been determined.
4-H Clover Challenge Grants

Here’s an opportunity for your older 4-Hers – if they are 15 to 18 years* of age and involved in corn, soybeans, or small grains projects OR any level of a foods & nutrition or animal science project tied to the use of corn soybeans or small grains, they can apply for 4-H Clover Challenge Grant funds. Clover Challenge Grants allow members to work with a mentor to explore uses for these crops and create two communication presentations using computer presentations, videos, GPS maps, posters, etc. Grants are sponsored by the Illinois Soybean Association and Pioneer Hi-Bred International. Check with the local Extension office for additional information. (* age as of 9/1/13)

2013 State Fair Alerts!

Judging to be held at 4 major locations on the fairgrounds. Judging schedules will be divided between morning and afternoon to accommodate project areas. Final locations to be identified in mid-July; the following locations are tentative.

*Horticulture & Floriculture – Emerson Building East Annex
*Fashion Revue (4 days) and Public Presentations (2 days) – IL Bldg Theater
*Natural Resources, Woodworking, Welding (1 day), Forestry, Small Engines, Wildlife, Entomology, Geology, & Tractor – 4-H Tents (Happy Hollow area)
*All Other Exhibits (inc. 2 days of Public Presentations) – Expo Bldg Mezzanine

Most exhibitors are encouraged to park in General/Public Parking (Gate 6) vs. our usual 4-H Lot (Gate 8) because it is closer to the Exposition Building. More details will be sent to local Extension offices by mid-July.

State 4-H Judging Locations and Times

**State Livestock Judging Contest** – Monday, June 17th in the U of I Stock Pavilion. Starting time is 8:30 a.m. This contest to determine high county teams. Seniors will give three sets of oral reasons and Junior division to answer three sets of questions. There is a $5 registration fee for seniors to cover lunch.

**State Poultry Judging Contest** – This contest to take place at the Illinois State Fair on Thursday, August 8th in the Orr building from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. This will be held right before the Junior poultry show begins.

**State Dairy Judging Contest** – This contest to be held at the Illinois State Fair, Saturday, August 17th, registration starting at 9:00 a.m. in the Livestock Center.

Superior Young Livestock Producer Award Contests

Youth do not have to show a live animal at the state fair in order to participate in the Superior Young Producer Contests for horses, swine, beef, dairy, or sheep. Twenty-five $1,000.00 scholarships will be awarded to the top five individuals in each specie contest. These contests will be held at the Illinois State Fair Grounds. 2013 dates and locations are:

- Horses – 6:00 p.m., Thursday, July 25th, lower level of theLivestock Center
- Swine – 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, August 7th, Livestock Center
- Beef – 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, August 7th, Livestock Center
- Sheep – 4:00 p.m., Thursday, August 8th, Open Sheep Barn Arena
- Dairy – 8:30 a.m., Saturday, August 17th, Livestock Center

For more specific details including registrations and rules visit the Illinois State Fair Premium Book website. www.agr.state.il.us/isf/.