Raising Support for Illinois 4-H

To many of us summertime means fairs, fests, and family reunions! These can all be great venues to reach 4-H supporters.

Support is just what we need for 4-H license plates in Illinois. The plates are not yet available for purchase. First, a show of financial support by 1,500 Illinois drivers (who have a current license plate on file with the Illinois Secretary of State) has to be generated to even make 4-H license plates in Illinois an option.

So, this summer, organize an information table for a local festival, set up a display at the 4-H food stand, and let relatives know how much 4-H has meant to you and how they can help with this opportunity.

Remember, the club challenge goes until **July 15, 2011**. 4-H clubs have been challenged to gather 10 contributions (checks and forms). Those who meet the challenge will be honored at an event at the 2011 Illinois State Fair. Clubs that exceed the challenge will be eligible for one of three prizes, which will be awarded to the top club in three categories (based on club size). 4-H members from these three clubs will also be invited to be a part of the official 4-H license plate unveiling event. More details on the club challenge can be found at [http://4hfoundation.illinois.edu/licenseplateinfo](http://4hfoundation.illinois.edu/licenseplateinfo).

Together we can create a future revenue stream and marketing opportunity for Illinois 4-H – by making 4-H license plates an option in Illinois. Please show your support of Illinois 4-H by:

1. Filling out a form (available at [http://4hfoundation.illinois.edu/licenseplateinfo](http://4hfoundation.illinois.edu/licenseplateinfo)) with your license plate number, your contact information, and your county and club affiliation specified for the club challenge.

2. Including a check for $25 made out to “Illinois Secretary of State” (while non-refundable and non-tax-deductible, it will all go to Illinois 4-H).

3. Mailing to: Illinois 4-H Foundation, 1401 South Maryland Drive, 106 Taft House, Urbana, IL 61801.

State Fair Online

Remind your members about this exciting state exhibit opportunity! Borrow a video camera from your county Extension office and invite members to record a demonstration in their project area. All projects in the 2010-11 **Illinois Clover** are eligible for exhibit. No county selection required. All exhibits will be posted and judged online. iPod Touch to winners. Free T-shirt to all participants. Optional attendance at 4-H Film Festival and Map Gallery. Free awards luncheon, **August 20th** at State Fair in Springfield, IL. For more information see: [http://web.extension.illinois.edu/state4h/events/statefaironline.cfm](http://web.extension.illinois.edu/state4h/events/statefaironline.cfm)
We do have some good news for the 2011 State Fair – the west wing of the dormitory WILL be open for exhibitors from Tuesday, August 9 until Monday morning, August 15. On-line registration for those reservations will go active July 15 from the 4-H website: http://web.extension.illinois.edu/state4h/members/fairsandexhibits.cfm. The Jr. Department Dorm Office will have a new location – the Northwest Dorm Wing.

Final locations of project exhibits will be sent to your local Extension offices by mid-July. We do know the following locations at this time:

- Clothing & Textile Judging, Fashion Revue Check-in and Dressing Rooms – Southwest Dormitory Wing (lower level) as in the past.
- The 4-H Fashion Review and Clover Celebration will be in the Illinois Building (Senior Center) Theater each day.
- Foods & Nutrition Judging and Food Demonstrations – lower level of the U of I Extension Building.
- All other exhibits will be divided between the U of I Extension Building Illini Auditorium and Washington Room and the Exposition Building Mezzanine.

Please check with your local Extension office if you have any other questions about State Fair changes.

4-H members no longer have to choose just one animal science state contest to participate in. The new format spreads the state livestock, poultry, meats, dairy, and horse contests out from June through August at different locations and dates.

**State Livestock Judging Contest** – **Monday June 20th** in the U of I Stock Pavilion... Starting time is 8:30 am. Since there will be no invitational contest at state fair in August, this contest will determine high county teams. Seniors will give 3 sets of oral reasons and junior division will answer 3 sets of questions. There will be a $10 registration fee for each senior member to cover the cost of their lunch as they will go later into the afternoon.

**State Horse Judging Contest** – **Tuesday June 21st** in the U of I Stock Pavilion.

**State Poultry Judging Contest** – This contest has moved to the Illinois State Fair on **Thursday August 11th** 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 has moved to the Illinois State Fair on **Saturday August 20th** in the Livestock Center.

**State Meats Judging Contest** – **Saturday August 27th** in the Meats Lab on campus starting at 9:00 am.

For more specific details including registrations and rules visit the Illinois State 4-H website: http://web.extension.illinois.edu/state4h/events/.

2011 North Central Region Volunteer e-Forum

Save-the-Dates! 2011 North Central Region Volunteer e-Forum will be held Nov, 7, 17, and 22, 2011 via distance technology. There will be three theme categories: Positive Youth Development, 4-H Program Management, and New and Emerging Curriculum. Two hour sessions will be offered from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. CST. All 4-H volunteers in the 12 North Central states are welcome to attend. 4-H leaders will go to their local Extension office to participate. More information coming soon about this first time ever e-forum event!