The new 4-H Volunteer Course – 4-H Club Program Planning takes volunteers through the process of selecting a planning committee, surveying members and families, planning the program, approving the plan, recruiting volunteers, and evaluating the endeavor. This is an excellent tool for new 4-H leaders and for those leaders who work with a planning committee to put together the 4-H club plan for the year. Clubs are encouraged to develop a club plan booklet and to distribute it annually to every 4-H family in the club and to the local Extension office. To access this, go to http://web.extension.illinois.edu/4hc/.

Remind your members about this exciting state exhibit opportunity that is open to all state-fair-age-eligible members. A video camera is available for check-out from your local Extension office. Video exhibits must be posted on the Illinois State Fair Online website by August 1, 2012. Judging will occur online August 1-10 and winners will be announced at the August 11th Illinois 4-H Family event at the Illinois State Fair in Springfield. Multiple gift card prizes of $10, $25 and $50! For 2011 examples or 2012 updates go to https://webs.extension.uiuc.edu/4hstatefaironline/. The site will be open for posting in mid-June.

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, 2012, 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.

Plan on bringing your 4-H members to the University of Illinois on Saturday, September 15 and help the College of ACES celebrate agriculture! This year’s Salute to Agriculture event will include lunch and a football ticket for $15! Come cheer on the Illini against Charleston Southern! Registration will open mid-summer once kick-off time has been determined. Once open, a link to registration will be found at www.academics.aces.illinois.edu/future-students.

Attention 4-Hers, 15 to 18 years* of age - you’ve put a lot into your 4-H project…now let it pay you back. The 4-H Clover Challenge Grant is an opportunity open to members who have completed all levels of the corn, soybeans, or small grains project OR all levels of a foods, nutrition or animal science project that is tied to the use of corn, soybeans, or small grains. Members will work with a mentor to create two communication presentations using computer presentations, videos, GPS maps, posters, etc. These 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 9/1/12)
2012 State Fair Alerts!

Tentatively 4-H judging will be held in 4 major locations on the fairgrounds. Judging schedules will be divided between morning and afternoon to accommodate project areas. Final locations will be identified in mid July. 

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

Due to the space changes, Foods Demonstration and Club/Group Action Presentation classes will NOT be offered at the 2012 State Fair. 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 later.

2012 North Central Region Volunteer Forum

Register Now! 2012 North Central Region Volunteer Forum will be held Oct. 11-14, in Wichita, KS. For more information go to http://www.kansas4-h.org/p.aspx?tabid=314. All 4-H volunteers in the 12 North Central states are welcome to attend. Early bird registration is $200 through July 31.

Calling Illinois 4-H Teens!! Leadership Opportunities Available

Applications for three 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 will be due June 15 for interviews at the Illini Summer Academies or August 1 for interviews at State Fair.

• 2013 Illini Summer Academies Planning Committee - Due July 15: http://web.extension.illinois.edu/state4h/members/leadership_isapc.cfm.

State 4-H Judging Contest Changes – New Locations, Dates, and Formats

State livestock, poultry, and dairy contests are held this summer at different locations and dates.

State Livestock Judging Contest – Monday, June 18th in the U of I Stock Pavilion. Starting time is 8:30 am. 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 is a $5 registration fee for seniors to cover lunch.

State Poultry Judging Contest – This contest has moved to the Illinois State Fair on Thursday, August 9th 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 18th in the Livestock Center.

Superior Young Livestock Producer

Youth do not have to have show a live animal at the state fair in order to participate in the Superior Young Livestock 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. 2012 dates and locations are:

Horse – 6:00 p.m., Thursday, July 26th, lower level of Livestock Center  
Swine – 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, August 8th, Livestock Center  
Beef – 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, August 8th, Livestock Center  
Sheep – 4:00 p.m., Friday, August 10th, Open Sheep Barn show arena  
Dairy – 2:30 p.m., Saturday, August 18th, Livestock Center

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