

Washington County 4-H News

February 2012

Dear 4-H Family,

We are going to try something a little different when it comes to the 4-H Newsletters for the 5 counties of Bond, Clinton, Jefferson, Marion, and Washington. All of the National, State, Regional, and Unit information applicable to all members, leaders, and clientele in our unit will be put together by Peter Morhardt, Youth Development Educator. All of the information for activities, events, and other items for your county will be added by the Extension Program Coordinator (EPC) from your county. So, while the format may look a little different, rest assured the information in it is accurate, and because only one person is inputting all the information common to all 4-H members, leaders, and clientele, it is a more efficient use of staff time and resources. This should allow the EPCs to spend more time on the programs you find important and valuable. We hope you understand this change, and will embrace it as we continue to develop our new unit. Also understand that we may continue to change the layout of the newsletter, and would appreciate your insightful comments to make it more appealing.

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Thank you,

The 4-H Youth Development Staff for Bond, Clinton, Jefferson, Marion and Washington Counties

Illinois 4-H Leader

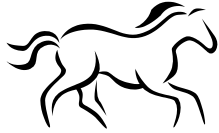
Please find enclosed a copy of the February/March Illinois 4-H Leader. This information is very useful for 4-H volunteers, members, and clientele. Please review this information for statewide activities and events that will be coming up.

JOIN | THE REVOLUTION 
OF RESPONSIBILITY

National/State/Region Information

Mastery Opportunities (aka Contests)

Southern Region and State Horse Bowl and Hippology Contests

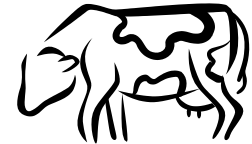


The Southern Region 4-H Horse Bowl and Hippology Contest will be held on March 24 at Rend Lake College. There are a couple of changes to the rules, so if you are interested in those, or if you are interested in more information, please contact your local Extension Office.

The dates for the state contest are April 14 for the Hippology and Horse Speech Contests, with Hippology starting at 8:00 a.m., and the speech contests to follow. The State Horse Bowl contest will be held on April 15th, beginning at 8:00 a.m. All state contests will be held on the University of Illinois – Urbana/Champaign Campus.

State Dairy Quiz Bowl Contest

The Illinois 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl Contest will be held on Saturday, March 3 at the Chateau Hotel and Conference Center, Bloomington. The State 4-H contest will be held in conjunction with the Illinois Jr. Holstein Association “Spring Thing” workshop. Registration will begin at 8:00 a.m. and the dairy bowl contest will begin at 9:00 a.m. Any 4-H member interested in participating is invited to attend. (Enrollment in Dairy projects is NOT required.) If you would like more information, please contact your local Extension Office.



Regional Dairy Judging Contest

The Regional Dairy Judging Contest will be held on April 21st at the Bond County Fairgrounds, Greenville. This contest is open to anyone who is interested in dairy judging, especially 4-H and FFA members. More information will be available in the March newsletter.

Awards, Scholarships, and Recognition

Scholarship Applications

Attention 4-H Members who are current high school seniors or college students: the Illinois 4-H Foundation has a couple of scholarships available for you!

➤ The **Illinois 4-H Legacy of Leadership Scholarship**, offers six, \$1,000 scholarships each year. Currently enrolled 4-H members who are seniors in high school or already college age may apply. Five years of 4-H membership are required. Applications are due March 1.



➤ The **Illinois 4-H Livestock Scholarship**, offers \$1,000 scholarships. 4-H members who are seniors in high school or already college age may apply. Three years of enrollment in 4-H livestock projects and focus on an agricultural degree and career are required. Applications are due March 1.

For more information on the above scholarships, please visit the Illinois 4-H website, under 4-H Members/Recognition, Awards, and Scholarships/4-H Scholarships, or contact your local Extension Office.

In addition, Farm Credit Services of Illinois has 25 \$1,000 **Farm Credit Agriculture Scholarships** available for current high school seniors who plan to enroll in an agriculture-based college curriculum this fall and who have aspirations of a career in agriculture. The deadline for this scholarship is March 2nd. University of Illinois students who attend full-time this fall will have this scholarship matched by U of I College of ACES. For more information, check out www.fcsillinois.com and click on “Scholarships 2012”.

Illinois 4-H Key Award Application



The Illinois 4-H Key Award is one of the most exclusive and prestigious awards an older 4-H member can receive. Every year, a maximum of 30 members in Illinois (ages 16-18) can receive this award. This award is designed to recognize outstanding 4-H leadership, community service, and service as a mentor. The application is due to your local Extension Office by February 24th. If you need additional information, please contact your local Extension Office.

4-H Club Information

Community Improvement Grants from Farm Credit Services of Illinois

Farm Credit Services of Illinois is pleased to announce our Community Improvement Grant program for 2012. Grants will be awarded in the amount of \$250 to 4-H clubs who carry out meaningful projects to better their communities. For more information and to access the application, please visit our website at <http://www.fcsillinois.com/CommunityGrants.html>. Please note that applications must be submitted by February 17, 2012. If you need further information, please contact your local Extension Office.

Secretary and Treasurer's Books Available Online

The new Secretary and Treasurer's Books are available online. Please go to the Illinois 4-H website, and click on Volunteers/Volunteer Support/Club Meeting Resources. If you have questions, or would like a paper copy of the Secretary or Treasurer's Book(s), please contact your local Extension Office.

Activities and Events

International 4-H Exchange Program Opportunities

While the State 4-H Office is no longer coordinating international 4-H youth exchanges, there are still inbound and outbound opportunities through the States 4-H Exchange consortium (states4Hexchange.org). If you are interested in spending part of the summer in Japan, Australia or Norway, please check out the information at <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/state4h/members/international.cfm>. You can find application forms and the 2012 brochure with further details about the available programs on this site.

Speaking for Illinois 4-H

There is a Speaking for Illinois 4-H event coming up on March 3rd in **Breese (Clinton County)**. Speaking for Illinois 4-H offers older 4-H members (ages 14-19) an opportunity to give back to the 4-H program by assisting local Extension staff with reporting to elected officials and stakeholders, recruiting volunteers, and identifying and speaking to potential funders. If you are interested in attending this event, please contact your local Extension Office. You must have approval of your local Extension Office to attend this program!! Please find more information on the Illinois 4-H website under Members/Leadership Opportunities, and also by reading the Illinois 4-H Leader. It would be great if we could have at least one member attend this event from each of the counties in our unit!!!



The 4-H Great Debate

The dates for the Illinois 4-H Great Debate are Friday and Saturday, March 23-24 in Springfield at the Capital. Please check out the Illinois 4-H Leader in this newsletter for more information, and contact your local Extension Office if you would like registration materials.

Legislative Connection Event Dates Set

Please mark April 18-19 and May 15-16 for Legislative Connection Events. Those who attend or have attended a Speaking for Illinois 4-H training will likely have some responsibilities at these events. More information will be coming soon.



2012 4-H Day With the Cardinals

The 11th Annual 4-H Day with the Cardinals will be Saturday, May 12. The game will begin at 6:15, but 4-Hers should plan on arriving by 4p.m. to enjoy the pre-game activities. The World Series Champion Cardinals are facing the Braves. Ticket information will be out soon.

Southern Region 4-H Camp

Please mark on your calendar the dates for the Southern Illinois Region 4-H Camp, which will be held from June 5-9, 2012 at the 4-H Memorial Camp in Monticello. Space will be limited again this year, and bus transportation will also be available. More information and registration materials will be out soon.

Illini Summer Academies (ISA)

For those of you who are middle school 8th graders-high school seniors (ages 14-18 as of September 1, 2012), please put Sunday, June 24-Wednesday, June 27 on your calendar for Illini Summer Academies. There are several different academies available to choose from. More information will be coming out over the next couple of months. Registration for ISA will open March 1st. The Illinois 4-H website (members/events/Illini Summer Academies) will have more information and registration forms shortly. Also, look at the Illinois Leader to find more out about ISA.



Illinois State Fair

Illinois State Fair Dates

The 2012 Illinois State Fair is scheduled for August 9-19. The day that Bond, Clinton, Jefferson, Marion, and Washington counties are scheduled for 4-H general projects is Monday, August 13th. Please mark these dates on your calendars!!

State Fair Changes

General Projects

Once again, there are some changes to the Illinois State Fair requirements. Due to the need to condense space for judging, the low numbers of exhibits over the past two years, and/or the cancellation of the 4-H project, **the following project areas will NOT have exhibit classes in 2012:**

- Service Learning
- Be the E!
- Clothing Decisions
- Sports Nutrition
- Plants & Soil Science
- Financial Champions and Consumer Savvy
- Club/Group Action Presentations
- Public Presentation classes in Extempore Speaking and Demonstration
- Geospatial (Exception is the SF Online class My 4-H Project Map, which is open to any 4-H member.)

Please keep in mind those projects which are approved in the 4-H Clover are still eligible for 4-H premiums and must be shown at the county 4-H fair/show. Additionally, Food Demonstrations are tentatively planned, pending on ability to use the University of Illinois Extension building for exhibits.

New classes were added for *Leadership Skills You Never Outgrow III*, and *Exploring Your Environment 1 and 2*.

Livestock

All Steers – Premiere and non Premiere must be **weighed and tattooed** on or between the last Saturday in January (the 28th) and March 15, 2012.

If you have questions about any state fair changes, please contact your local Extension Office.

Livestock Ownership Deadlines

There are numerous deadlines for ownership of different livestock projects for State Fair. Please keep in mind that some of these deadlines are either coming quickly, or in a few cases, have already passed. Also, remember your county may have different deadlines, so check with them for your county 4-H fair.

STEERS:

- Calved on or after January 1, 2011
- Owned & personally cared for by exhibitor since February 1, 2012
- Tattooed on or between January 28 and March 15, 2012.
- In addition to tattooing, steers are to be tagged with the electronic ID tags.

REGULAR BARROWS:

- Farrowed on or after January 15, 2012 and must be the property of the exhibitor by June 1, 2012.
- No weighing and tattooing required but must submit ear notches when making entry for ISF

PREMIERE BARROWS:

- Farrowed on or after February 10, 2012 and must have been the property of the exhibitor by June 1, 2012
- Weighed and Tattooed February 10 to April 15, 2012

- Tattooed within 35 days of birth and not weigh more than 1.0 lbs/day
- Junior exhibitors can purchase nominated barrows

SHEEP WETHERS:

- Both Premiere & Live Show Wethers
- Lambled on or after January 1, 2012
- Ownership Date – May 15, 2012
- Weighed & Tattooed – between March 15 and May 15, 2012

All lambs and meat goats to be exhibited at the State Fair **MUST** be taken to one of the statewide locations for weighing and tattooing. Each lamb will be tagged with an electronic ID tag at a cost of \$2/animal.

MEAT GOATS:

- Wethers – Born on or after October 1, 2011
- Registered and tattooed in name of exhibitor only by May 15, 2012

BREEDING ANIMALS

BEEF – HEIFERS:

- Age requirement is from September 1, 2010 to March 31, 2012 (*w/ addition of Senior Yearling class*)
- Owned and personally cared for by exhibitor since June 1, 2012

BEEF – PERFORMANCE COWS:

- Cows must be born before September 1, 2010 (*Cow-Calf Class only*)
- Owned and personally cared by exhibitor since January 1, 2012

SWINE – GILTS:

- Age requirement is farrowed on or after January 1, 2012
- Owned by exhibitor since June 1, 2012

SHEEP – EWES & RAMS:

- Age requirement for yearling ewes is from January 1, 2011 to August 31, 2011
- Age requirement for ewe lambs is after September 1, 2011

- Age requirement for ram lambs is after January 1, 2012
- Owned and personally cared for by exhibitor since June 25, 2012

DAIRY – COWS, HEIFERS, AND CALVES:

- No age requirements
- Calves and Heifers – Owned since June 1, 2012
- Cows – Owned since January 1, 2012

HORSE AND PONY:

- May 1 – Place on file in Extension Office or w/ FFA Advisor copies of ownership and/or lease

papers for all animals that the member plans to exhibit at the ISF Junior Horse Show.

DOGS:

- Dogs must be owned or leased by June 1, 2012
- At this time, no paperwork is required to be on file.

DAIRY GOATS:

- Kids and Yearlings not in milk must be owned by exhibitor only by June 1, 2012.
- Milking Does must be owned by exhibitor only by January 1, 2012.

MEAT GOATS:

- All meat goats are to be owned by exhibitor by May 15, 2012.

RABBITS, PYGMY GOATS & POULTRY:

- Animals in these species that are to be exhibited at the ISF Jr. Show must be owned by the exhibitor as indicated:
 - Does -- By June 1 of the year exhibiting
 - All others -- Out of stock owned by the exhibitor prior to June 1.

Events and Opportunities for Volunteers

VALUED Volunteer Trainings

There are several VALUED Volunteer Training Telenets scheduled for February and early March. These telenets are great for volunteers who have been involved in 4-H for just a couple of years, or any volunteer who would like to have a refresher course on the topics they are discussing in this year's series. If you are interested in more information on these, please contact your local Extension Office.

Illinois 4-H Shooting Sports Trainings



For those who are interested in becoming a shooting sports instructor, or if you know someone who would like to become a shooting sports instructor, there are two trainings scheduled for 2012. They are May 18-20 and September 28-30. Both will be held at the 4-H Memorial Camp in Monticello. For additional information, please contact the Extension Office.



Illinois Governor's Volunteer Service Awards

If you know of a volunteer you would like to see recognized for their efforts, please talk to your local Extension Office. Please let your local staff know by February 24th.

State 4-H Scholarship/Award Judging Opportunity

The State 4-H Office is looking for volunteers to judge the Legacy of Leadership Scholarships, the Illinois 4-H Livestock Scholarship, and the Illinois 4-H Key Award applications. The date to judge these applications is March 17. You cannot have any personal ties to any of the applicants in order to judge. The State 4-H Office will cover the mileage and lunch for the day. If you are interested, please contact your local Extension Office.

North Central Region Volunteer Forum

Volunteers, please mark October 11-14, 2012 for the North Central Region Volunteer Forum. This year, it will be held in Wichita, Kansas. For more information, please visit the website <http://www.kansas4h.org/p.aspx?tabid=314>. More information will be coming as the event nears.

Volunteers for SPIN Clubs

If you know of adults who have a passion in a certain area and would be great working with youth, but cannot commit to a huge amount of time, volunteering to work with a SPIN Club may be for you. The time commitment is typically much less (only 6 meetings minimum), and you can still have a positive impact with youth. Please contact your local Extension Office for more information on SPIN clubs.

Illinois 4-H License Plate

We know you are passionate for 4-H—so why not help 4-H get a specialty license plate in Illinois? In order for the Secretary of State to begin production of a 4-H specialty license plate, 1,500 Illinois drivers (who have a current license plate on file with the Illinois Secretary of State) need to show financial support, and we still have a long way to go. This donation helps make 4-H license plates a reality and a future revenue stream for 4-H youth in Illinois. If you would like more information on this opportunity, please contact your local Extension Office.



Unit Information

Club Officer Workshops

There are three club officer workshops scheduled in February throughout the unit. We will have people from the area who work with each of the officer roles work with each of the different offices, and have some time for the officer team to work together as a team. These workshops will be held on Thursday, February 16th in Salem; Tuesday, February 21st in Nashville; and Thursday, February 23rd, in Breese, all at 7:00 p.m. Please RSVP one week prior to the training.

Pork Quality Assurance (PQA)

There is a PQA training scheduled for April 30, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Marion County Extension Office. Additional trainings may or may not be scheduled, depending on availability of certified staff being able to facilitate trainings.

New!!! **Unit wide meeting/activity policy***** New!!!***

All members and leaders, please take note of the following change in policy!! Effective for the 2012-2013 4-H Year (next year!!), every 4-H member in the counties of Bond, Clinton, Jefferson, Marion, and Washington must attend a minimum of 4 meetings, activities, or events in order to be able to show at your county 4-H shows and fair. If you have questions or concerns about this new policy, please contact Peter or Lisa at the Marion County office.

Unit Volunteer Meeting (Creative title will be coming)

The next unit-wide volunteer meeting will be held on Thursday, March 29 at the Washington County Extension Office at 7:00 p.m. We will continue with the PYD/BIG-M training, as well as allow time to network with other volunteers throughout the unit. We will also allow you to have a look-through the Washington County Extension Office. More information will be in the March newsletter.

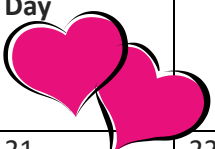

Washington County 4-H Hotline News

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Rhonda Mueller, Office Support Associate

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
February 2012			1	2 Valued Volunteer Leader Session	3	4 4-H Steer Weigh-in
5	6	7	8 Valued Volunteer Leader Session	9	10	11
12 Lincoln's Birthday	13 Valued Volunteer Leader Session	14 Valentine's Day 	15	16	17 Deadline for Community Improvement Grant Applications	18
19	20 Presidents' Day	21 Club Officer Workshop at Wash. Co. Extension	22	23	24	25
26	27 Swine Premiere Weigh-in	28 Simply the Best Training & Federation Meeting Valued Volunteer Leader Session	29	<p>Newsletter In this day and age of technology we realize that our means of communicating is very different from what we may be used to from the past. There are many new and exciting opportunities that technology offers us. We would like to offer our newsletter in an electronic format for those families who have this availability and are interested. We feel that it will not only save money on postage, but that it can also be more efficient and timely. Please let us know if you would like to receive your newsletter via email or if you would like to continue receiving a paper copy by sending an email to abfox@illinois.edu or calling Amanda Fox at the Extension Office. Welcome to the future!</p> 		

March 2012

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|----|---|-------|--|
| 1 | Deadline for Handbook Cover Contest Entries | 17 | 4-H & FFA Livestock Judging, Marion County |
| 1 | Simply the Best Training, OHS | 23-24 | The Great 4-H Debate, Springfield |
| 1 | Deadline for Legacy of Leadership and Illinois 4-H Livestock Scholarship Applications | 24 | Simply the Best, Nashville Middle School |
| 2 | Deadline for Farm Credit Agriculture Scholarships | 24 | Regional Horse Bowl & Hippology Contest, Rend Lake College |
| 3 | Illinois 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl Contest, Bloomington | 27 | Federation Meeting |
| 4 | Speaking for Illinois 4-H Training, Breese | 29 | Unit Wide Volunteer Training |
| 16 | Simply the Best Training, St. Ann School Nashville | | |

Upcoming Events...



4-H Steer Weigh-in

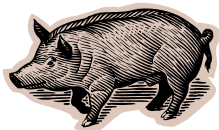
The steer weigh-in is scheduled for February 4th, 2012, 9:00 a.m. at the Nashville Animal Clinic. This is the only date to weigh and identify steers for the 4-H Rate of Gain contest and 4-H Auction. If you have not completed your enrollment forms please bring them with you to the weigh-in.

Swine Premiere Weigh-in

The Swine Premiere Weigh-in is scheduled for February 27th, 6:00 p.m. at the Washington County Fairgrounds. ***Please Note: This date is different than what was advertised last month.*** All forms and information regarding this event will be mailed to 4-H members enrolled in the swine project in early February. Please look for your mailing or contact the Extension Office for more information. If you have not completed your enrollment forms, please do so ASAP.

Market Barrow Tattooing

Those 4-H members enrolled in swine projects and who did not have animals identified at the swine premiere tattooing, please take note. According to Animal Science guidelines, your animals (5 maximum) need to be identified during March. Please call the Extension Office to set up an appointment to get this done.



Pork Quality Assurance

Please note that Pork Quality Assurance classes for swine exhibitors ages 8-11 is mandatory to exhibit. You will be contacted as to date, place and time. There is one scheduled training being held in Marion County on April 30th at 6:30 p.m. Depending on need in our county, more sessions may or may not be available. Look for more information in the mail very soon. Older swine exhibitors may be receiving information related to a test that is required every few years. Please be on the lookout for this information.



Sheep Whether Weigh-in

This event will be held on April 30th, 6:00 p.m. at the Washington County Fairgrounds. All Washington County 4-H members who wish to show and auction sheep at our county show, will need to attend this weigh-in. If you are planning on showing at state, you will also need to attend a state fair weigh in. More information and nomination forms will be sent in early April.

Quality Assurance and Ethics

Quality Assurance and Ethics certification is a requirement for 4-H and FFA members who plan on exhibiting any of the following species at the county level: beef, dairy, goats, horses, poultry, sheep and swine. All exhibitors should complete this training by June 1st. Participants are required to only take the QA&EC training once for any species.

The website <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/qaec/> should be open February 1st and will allow exhibitors to move easily between 5 different modules (and a 6th section specific to a species). Upon completion of the training, the exhibitor's name will be added to a database. Before exiting the website, participants will want to print a certificate of completion. If you should have any questions, or need help completing this certification, please contact the Extension Office for more information.

Simply the Best 2012

“Love, Not War” is the theme for Simply the Best 2012. The date is March 24th at the Nashville Middle School. We are planning school visits for early March and registration forms will be available at this time. This is an invitation for all 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students of Washington County to attend this informative and exciting day. Simply the Best begins at 12:30 p.m. with registration and ends after the dance at 9:30 p.m. If you have questions, or for more information call the Extension Office.



Congratulations...

We have just received word that several of our clubs were award winners related to a June is dairy month promotion held this past summer. We would like to congratulate them on their success!

1st place – Nashville Eager Beavers

2nd place – Okawville Busy Bees

3rd place – Hoyleton Boosters

Gift card prizes are available at the Extension Office! Keep up the good work in your communities!



Exciting Opportunities...

Facebook Hey all. If you are a facebook user, or your child/grandchild is a facebook user...check out the new pages we have created! Be sure to click “like” at the top of each page to get the most up to date information.

[Washington County, Illinois 4-H](#) [Simply the Best Washington County IL](#)

[Washington County 4H Shooting Sports](#)

Handbook Cover and Contest

Design a cover for the Washington County 4-H Handbook. Show us your artistic talent, be creative, and win a prize!

- Entries due by March 1st, 2012
- Submit original design on white paper (8 ½ x 11”)
- Use black ink (drawing must be dark enough to copy easily on office machines)
- Name must be in bottom right hand corner
- “Washington County 4-H 2012” must be somewhere on the page
- If using the clover, it must be an image with the copyright and comply with all rules and guidelines regarding the use of the 4-H clover. Please ask the Extension Office if you are unsure about these guidelines.
- Remember to leave room on the left side for binding. Good Luck!



Shooting Sports 4-H Club Archery Find Out Meeting



The Shooting Sports Find-Out Meeting for the 2012 Archery Season will be on Thursday, February 9th, 7:00 p.m. at the Nashville Primary School Cafeteria. We are hoping to get the club up and running with their first sessions being held in March. If you have children interested in joining this exciting new club, please join us at the meeting. We would like to have an RSVP by February 3rd. Are you interested in helping out with our newly formed 4-H Shooting Sports Club? If so, please let us know! A group of interested adults will be meeting at 6:00 p.m. that same evening to continue making plans for the upcoming 2012 Archery Season.

Shooting Sports 4-H Club...Rifle

We are pleased to announce that we have a volunteer that will be attending the training in May in the discipline of rifle. And it has been rumored, that another instructor will be available in the area of shotgun. Stay tuned for more details! If you or your children are interested in these clubs, please contact the Extension Office.



Livestock Records The Washington County Animal Science Committee has requested that the 4-H Livestock Records be re-introduced into the current 4-H program. These records would be for the use of any 4-H members who exhibit any of the following animals during the summer 4-H fair shows: Beef, Dairy, Goats, Horses, Poultry, Rabbits, Sheep, and Swine. Completed Livestock Records will be due September 1st along with the members' permanent records and curriculum area applications. Efforts will be made to secure award recognition for members turning in their livestock records according to a point/scoring system yet to be determined. If you should have any questions, please contact Program Coordinator, Amanda Fox at 327-8881. As you turn in your enrollment forms, be looking for these records to arrive along with your project manuals. Thanks and Good Luck!

Project Manuals and Enrollment Forms Due to a new 4-H DMS computer system that is now in place for enrolling 4-H members, at this time all project manuals are being sent to the Extension Office rather than to each individual club leader. After the Extension Office receives the manuals, we will contact the club leaders. Due to this change, enrollments will be entered on several dates only as to ensure that the manuals are shipped in as few shipments as possible to save on shipping costs. The next deadlines for entering enrollments will be March 21st, and May 2nd. We apologize for any delay there might be in receiving your manuals due to this new system. If you should have any questions, please call the Extension Office.



4-H Re-enrollment The 4-H year is well underway and lots of activities are being planned. Many of these events and activities do require 4-H enrollment. We know that you are a part of our 4-H family, but if you have not re-enrolled as of yet, please see your leader and do so soon. Our mission is to make every opportunity available to you, with the least amount of problems for each and every 4-H member.