



Richland County 4-H 1924-1931

There are many ways to research your county's 4-H history. I have found the old Illinois Farm Adviser's Annual Reports. They have proven to be an excellent source for information. Here is a summary of Richland County 4-H from 1924 to 1931. I don't know if this is when 4-H began in Richland County but it is the earliest records I have had a chance to go through.

December 1, 1924 to November 30, 1925

- 1924 was the initial year in fostering the girls' clothing club. Club work was fostered with the idea that community spirit and community life could be constructively developed by first reaching the younger people of the neighborhood. There were 41 girls enrolled in girls' clothing clubs.
- Thirty-four members were enrolled in the poultry club project. This project was conducted in cooperation with G. W. Blackburn Poultry Company of the city of Olney. Every member received three settings of fifteen eggs each, or a total of forty-five eggs, with five added to cover breakage.

December 1, 1925 to November 30, 1926

- Sixty-seven members were enrolled in five clothing clubs.
- There was one corn club with eleven members. Enough corn was given to each member to plant an acre. One hundred and two boys and girls were enrolled in the poultry club. Approximately eighteen hundred birds were grown to maturity by the club members

December 1, 1927 to November 30, 1928

- On April 4 a county club leaders training school was held at the Farm Bureau office. The object of this training school was to provide a definite course for club leaders to follow.
- Two corn clubs, one dairy calf club, four clothing clubs, and one canning club were started. They contained a total enrollment of 89.

January 1, 1929 to November 30, 1929

- Two state champions, one boy and one girl were selected from Richland County and they will represent the state at the National Club Congress held in Chicago during the first week of December.

December 1, 1929 to November 30, 1930

- One hundred girls were enrolled in foods and clothing club projects.
- In all there were eight adult leaders in charge of 67 club boys.

December 1, 1930 to November 30, 1931

- A rally day was held near the beginning of the year in which approximately 300 boys and girls participated in stunts, demonstrations, games, music contests, and club yells.
- Twenty club members from the county attended the University of Illinois Tour at Urbana on June 10-12. Representatives from the group were entered in various competitive events, and in the all-state 4-H orchestra.
- Each club organized in the county was required to have at least five members under the direction of an adult local leader. Members were between the ages of ten and twenty years.

The 4-H Centennial lists ideas for the upcoming 4-H Centennial. Send ideas and comments to: Illinois 4-H Centennial, Deb Stocker, 302 E. John, Suite 1901, Champaign, IL 61820 (217) 333-0910.
<http://www.4-h.uiuc.edu/events/centennial.html>

Display Committee

The Display Committee is in the process of gathering ideas from counties to consider in the development of a Display for statewide use. The goal is to provide a template with certain pictures that will be used every time a display is used. There will be opportunities for units to utilize local history to localize the display to meet their needs. Items being considered include project comparisons over the years, 4-H Camping, evolution of the clover, and expansion of 4-H into the urban areas.

The committee would also like to develop different pieces that local speaker bureaus could use when making local presentations, a Readers Theater piece for local use, on-street promotional brochures, county poster contest ideas, just to name a few.

Individuals who would like to share ideas, or would have pictures they would like to have included are asked to contact Bill Million at the State 4-H Office.

Ten Reasons for Counties (Units) to Recruit 4-H Alumni

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1. Alumni are potential donors
 2. Alumni are potential new organizational leaders or project leaders
 3. Alumni are potential judges for 4-H events, activities and fairs
 4. Alumni's children are potential 4-H members
 5. Alumni can help bring people together
 6. Alumni can serve as middle management volunteers helping extension staff make their job easier.
 7. Alumni can provide part of the county 4-H history
 8. Alumni are resources for workshops and other educational experiences
 9. Alumni can serve as mentors to current members
 10. Alumni are an excellent way for new Youth Development Educators to make contacts with individuals in their county (unit) who have a 4-H connection

Alumni Registry

The Alumni Sub-committee is constructing a form for alumni/friends of 4-H to fill out. The form will provide a quick history of that person's experiences participating, leading, or volunteering with 4-H in their lifetime. There are many uses for this form; one being a great way for county's to have an instant archive of statistics on what alumni/friends of 4-H were/are doing in the county. It makes a great reference for finding new volunteers. (There will be boxes to check to ensure that no one will be contacted for donations or volunteering.) These types of forms make great mixers at celebrations to allow others to get to know each other, and reminisce about their 4-H ties.

National Conversation on Youth Development in the 21st Century

The best way to celebrate the last hundred years of youth development in 4-H is to make history with one of the largest group discussions held in America. The National Conversations will be starting soon at the county level all over the country. Illinois' own Chris Anderson, Unit Educator in the Sangamon/Menard Unit is on the national planning committee. In Illinois approximately \$127,000 will be used towards sending a delegation of 84 4-H members, volunteers, and staff to Washington, D.C. for the big event in February. Stay tuned to the website for more details and promotion of this big event.

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