



Illinois *Leader*

Publication for Illinois 4-H Leaders

February – March 2008

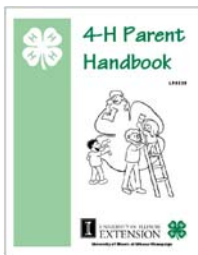
Parents: What They Can Add to 4-H!



Parental involvement in the local club program is essential to the success of many clubs. Some clubs have been more effective than others in utilizing parents, grandparents, siblings, and other caring adults in a variety of ways.

A new volunteer training lesson has been developed to help 4-H leaders increase involvement of parents in the 4-H program. The lesson will help provide information on a variety of opportunities to involve parents in the club program. Leaders will gain a better understanding of the expectations of parents and learn strategies to share their own expectations of parents. The lesson will help leaders create strategies to work with diverse parenting styles among their families and to think of ways to creatively recognize parents for their contributions to the local club. Volunteers who participate in this training will have the tools needed to increase the number of parents involved in the local club. The lesson includes additional resources such as a Parent Skills Bank tool, New Family Support Coordinator volunteer role description, Parent Expectation worksheets, a 4-H Parent's Pledge bookmark, and the new *Helping You Help Youth* fact sheet – “*Involve Caring Adults in 4-H.*” The lesson package will be available for staff in early February. If this is a topic of interest, please contact your local Extension office to request a training session.

4-H Parent Handbook

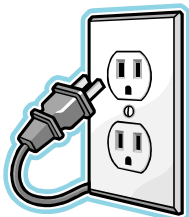


A new *4-H Parent Handbook* is now available to 4-H families in Illinois. It may be ordered through your local Extension office. The booklet can help new 4-H families learn more about 4-H and how to help 4-H members have a positive experience in 4-H. The booklet contains a parent role description, facts about 4-H, where to get information about 4-H, what's expected in 4-H, 4-H projects and supporting events, an Illinois 4-H Glossary, resources to help 4-H families, and a map of the Extension regions. The booklet can be used as a companion piece to the *Welcome to 4-H* publication available for new 4-H members – especially those ages 8 - 12.

Host Families Needed for Exchange Programs

Japanese Exchange Program: The summer 4-H exchange program involves Japanese youth (ages 12-16) living with a family for a month beginning July 23, 2008. Families have opportunities to learn about Japanese life and culture and share their own culture. For more information about the Japanese and other hosting opportunities, contact your local Extension office.

2008 4-H Electricity Skillathon set for June 17



The **electricity skillathon** is designed to provide 4-H members enrolled in the 4-H electricity project an opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge of electricity: efficient use of electricity; care, maintenance, and safety of electrical equipment; and electrical tools found on the farm and in the home. The skillathon will cover information contained in 4-H electricity project manuals. 4-H members who are 14 years of age as of 1/1/2008 are eligible to participate in this event. Delegates to the 2008 National 4-H Engineering Competition will be selected from this state event. Please contact your local Extension office for additional information and a copy of the rules for the **June 17** event.

'08 State Fair Changes Announced for Animal Shows



In addition to the 2008 **Premises Identification Requirement** for all animal exhibitors at county, 4-H, and state fairs, the State Fair Jr. Department Livestock Advisory Committee has announced the following requirements for the 2008 State Fair:

- ★ **Poultry** has been added to the required species for the **Quality Assurance & Ethics Certification**. If a poultry exhibitor has not been certified on the website for another species, they must be certified before the July 1 deadline for poultry entries. The site will be open on February 1 for 2008 certification: <http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/qaec/>
- ★ Sheep wethers will have statewide required weigh-in and electronic tagging dates and locations, as in 2007. Dates and locations are still to be announced. Electronic tagging of beef steers will also be required. Contact your local Extension office for more information.
- ★ All animal species will be charged **an entry fee** for the 2008 Illinois State Fair. The fee is established on a per animal basis and payment will be required before entries will be accepted this summer. Deadlines for entry will be June 9 for Horses; July 1 for Beef, Sheep, Dairy, Goats, Rabbits, Swine, and Poultry; August 1 for Dogs.
 - Beef, Dairy, Horses -- \$10.00 per animal
 - Sheep, Swine, Goats -- \$2.50 per animal
 - Dogs -- \$2.00 per dog
 - Poultry, Rabbits -- \$1.00 per animal
- ★ The Jr. Market Lamb show is being moved to Friday, August 8. The Jr. Breeding Sheep show is scheduled for Sunday, August 10. The State 4-H Dog Show is scheduled for Sunday, August 24.

All exhibitors should read the general rules, regulations, and specific species rules in the Junior Department Premium Book which will be available for download this spring on the State Fair website: <http://www.illinoisstatefair.info/>.

Summer Teen Event Focusing on Academies



This summer, the State 4-H Office is collaborating with colleges across the University of Illinois campus to bring Illinois teens a new experience. The **Illini Summer Academies (ISA)** are designed to offer a 15-hour in-depth look at skills, classes, and tools needed for teens to explore various careers and opportunities. ISA will replace the former Illinois 4-H Leadership Convention and is scheduled for June 26-28, 2008.

A **Veterinary Science Academy** and a **Leadership Academy** have been confirmed for 2008, but other academies are in the works. Academies will be limited in the number of youth accepted and acceptance will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Fees will vary for each academy, but will include University of Illinois dormitory housing, meals, insurance, evening activities, speakers, and the 15-hours of coursework.

Additional academies will be finalized by early February and registration materials will be available by early March. A limited number of scholarships will be available for 4-H members, however the academies are open to any Illinois high school teen ages 14-18 by September 1, 2008. On-line registration will be available and local Extension offices will have that information when registration opens.

The Illinois Leader is your publication. Submit story ideas and comments to:
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