



Iowa

4-H volunteer

Northwest Area 4-H Update

belonging...generosity...independence...mastery



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CLUB ACTIVITY

Decision On Decision Making

Try one of these group decision-making processes at your 4-H club meetings as a way to include all members and to effectively use time at your meetings.

Rank-Order—Sit in a circle with one person acting as a recorder of ideas. Ideas are shared in a “**round robin**” until all ideas are recorded. If a person doesn’t have an idea, he/she may pass. If an idea has been listed already, it can’t be repeated. Go around the circle until there are no more ideas. Do not discuss the list. Everyone privately ranks his/her choice (1 = first choice; 2 = second) on a 3x5 card. The choices are tallied and shared.

Card Tally—Record several ideas on 5x7 cards or large sticky notes. Place the ideas on a wall. Appoint someone to serve as a **facilitator** to group ideas that are duplicated. Then each member marks a #1 on the idea he/she prefers as a first choice, a #2 on the second choice, and #3 on the third. Numbers are tallied and the idea grouping receiving the “lowest” total number is the top choice. For this process, one 4-H club recommends distributing sticky notes as 4-H members arrive and ask members to list an idea for a club project on each note while waiting for the meeting to begin. This saves time during the business meeting.

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Shooting Sports Project Comes to NW Iowa

4-H Shooting Sports is a relatively new project area that has recently gained new life. As a key focus area for the Iowa 4-H program, Northwest Iowa has begun training adult volunteers to teach responsibility and technique in the 4-H Shooting Sports project. The goals of the program are to teach safe and responsible use of firearms and archery equipment, promote high standards of sportsmanship, encourage understanding of our natural resources, enhance the development of young people, expose participants to possible careers, and to strengthen families through life-long recreational activities. If you’re interested in helping begin a shooting sports program in your county, contact your local Extension office or Judy Levings at the State 4-H Office, jlevings@iastate.edu.



2005 SESS National Match

2006 Area Council Forms

Northwest Iowa 4-H members have recently come together to form the new 2005-06 Area 4-H Council. Made up of youth currently in grades 10 through 12, the Council provides leadership and service experiences for area teens. Members pin-point area needs and problems, and develop a plan of action to help remedy these problems.

LITERATURE SPOTLIGHT

In 2004, a new set of 4-H Crop Project materials was published in cooperation with the Iowa Soybean Promotion Board. The 4-H Crop Project—Soybean and Corn was created to help 4-Hers learn the basics about crop production and related careers. Three booklets were produced, one for each 4-H level. A companion CD includes more activities and up-to-date crop industry information. The CD will be updated more frequently than the booklets with new research, products, and information. A booklet for project leaders includes activities and teaching resources to use with 4-Hers. Even if you don’t have a 4-H member who lives on a crop farm, you can use this literature and the corresponding activities to teach about the value of agriculture and about the products we use daily that are derived from the crops we harvest here in Iowa. Contact your local Extension office to purchase these or any 4-H project materials.

Book 1 – Seedy Business

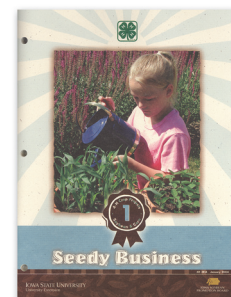
(Grades 4 to 6), 44 pages, \$3.00

Book 2 – Green and Growing

(Grades 7 to 8), 64 pages, \$3.00

Book 3 – Be’an All You Can Be

(Grades 9 to 12), 60 pages, \$3.00





Decision story continued from front page

Brainstorm—Generate as many different ideas as possible in a set amount of time (3 to 5 minutes). Respect and value all ideas. Have a recorder list ideas on a large sheet of paper. In the first round of voting, everyone votes on the ideas as many times as they choose. In the next round, everyone votes only for his/her top two choices. Use markers, stickers or colored dots for voting. Ideas receiving the most votes become the group's decision.

From "Step Up to Leadership, A Leadership Journal for Grades 6-8," National 4-H Cooperative Curriculum System, Inc.

**2005-06
New Project
Material**

**Sewing
Expressions**

Learn to be smart clothing consumers and create garments and unique costumes,
Level 1: *Under Construction*
Level 2: *Fashion Forward*
Level 3: *Redefine Design*
Leader Guide.

A listing of all project materials is available in this year's Pick a Project—
<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Publications/4H200.pdf>.

You also can contact your county office for these to hand out at club meetings.



... and justice for all

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OTHER NEWS & NOTES

CWF in 2006

The next Northwest Iowa trip to Washington D.C. for Citizenship Washington Focus (CWF) will be Summer 2006. The exact dates won't be finalized until later this fall. Think of the older 4-H members in your club who are eligible for the trip and start encouraging them to participate now. Sometimes it's that extra nudge from a caring adult that will get them to try a new opportunity like this. For more information on the CWF program, visit www.cwf.n4h.org.

Chaperones Needed

Chaperones are always in short supply for the variety of 4-H opportunities that happen throughout the year. Compassionate and responsible adults are needed to help chaperone at 4-H Day at the Legislature (March), National 4-H Conference (March), State 4-H Conference (June), CWF (June), and National 4-H Congress (November). We couldn't do it without your help. Will you consider chaperoning? Chaperone expenses are generally covered through program fees or local Extension offices so your only sacrifice would be time. Please contact your Extension Office if you would like to participate in any of these activities.

Judges Training

The next round of judges training in Northwest Iowa will take place in March or April of 2006. If you are already a judge registered on the statewide database (or have attended training in the past), you will automatically receive information in the mail regarding the 2006 training. If you have never been trained and would like to begin judging at local fairs next summer, contact your Extension Office to be sent the materials when it becomes available. We could not survive the summer without the many caring adults who take time to share their expertise with our 4-H members.

Get-Acquainted Idea

Use this activity as a great way to involve all your club members and give them a chance to learn something new about each other. One at a time, members go to the front of the room to write their names on a large piece of newsprint. They then share a story related to how they received their names or an interesting story about how their names fit in with the rest of their family.

Ideas In Action

Need a good way to get youth lined up for an activity? Here are a few clever ideas to help you during your next recreation game or activity. Line up according to:

- how old you were when you learned to ride a bike
- color of hair, dark to light
- number of books read in the past two months
- size of your favorite animal
- how much money required to get you to eat roadkill
- number of times eaten in a restaurant or take-out in the past 2 weeks
- height
- age
- first letter of middle name
- number of exhibits at the fair
- furthest place ever visited
- longest time away from home (i.e., camp, etc.)

Have an idea?

If you have news you'd like to submit, contact Jennifer Tabke in the Plymouth County Extension Office at 712-546-7835 or tabke@iastate.edu.