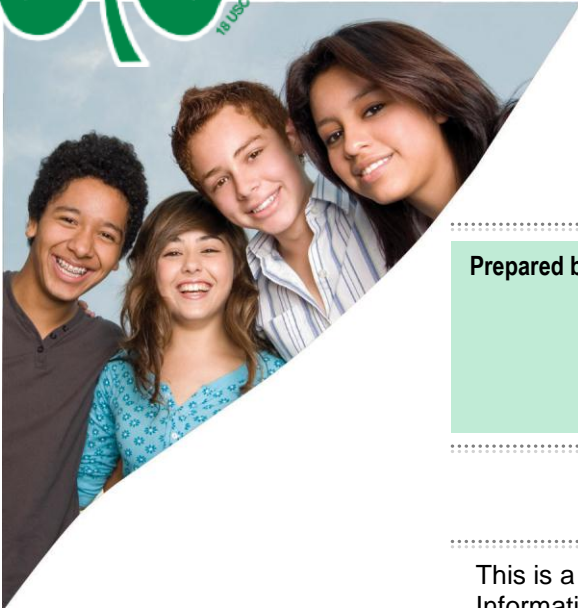




4-H CONNECTION...AN UPDATE FOR 4H FAMILIES



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4H Enrollment

This is a friendly reminder that 4H enrollment is being done online this year. Information is being sent with this newsletter. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to ask. While there is no deadline to enroll in 4H, the sooner you do it the better. Earlier enrollment will make sure that you remain on all mailing lists, getting all the information you will need.

While enrolling in 4H is online, we do still need to receive the \$15 fee in the office. 4H enrollment will not be considered complete until the \$15 fee is received.

“4H Online” is the name of our 4H database system. It is where you go to enroll in 4H, but you can also access it 24/7 to make changes to: address, project areas, etc. Another big change this year is that all 4H animals will be identified within the “4H Online” system. We kick this off with the market beef animals being verified in December (more details within the newsletter). More information will be given out closer to time for all the other species.

WHAT'S INSIDE:

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Additional Notes

We would like to welcome our new 4-H club members:

Grant Anderson
Josh Case
Rachel Gregg
Ryker Hickman

Jordan McAlexander
Gracie Mobley
Tanner Parman
Blake Rychnovsky
Taylor Shields

Clover Kids: Ryce Reynolds, Mya Sackett and Olivia West



4-H
GROWING TOGETHER



Market Beef Weigh-In

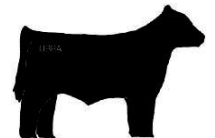
Anyone taking market beef exhibit(s) to the Ringgold county fair, or other livestock shows (Iowa State Fair, AK-SAR-BEN), must have them weighed in and identified at our county weigh-in. Our weigh-in is set for Saturday, December 17th from 9:00 am—12:00 noon at Hays Beef Development Center. Call the Extension office if you need directions.

Ear tags will be put in and identification forms filled out. NEW this year: Extension staff will be entering all market beef information in 4H Online (tag #, date weighed, weight, etc). 4H families will be required to go into 4H Online to verify that the information is correct. Clicking the check box will be like you signing off on everything. If corrections are needed you will call the Extension office. Verification has to be complete by February 1st in order for these animals to be accepted for exhibition at the county fair, Iowa State Fair and/or Ak-Sar-Ben. Please note: if you have not enrolled in 4H thru 4H Online yet, you are advised to do so prior to December 17th. It will make everything easier for all of us.

Retinal imaging will be done for those animals being verified for State Fair; DNA pulled on those verified for AK-SAR-BEN. The charges this year will be: State Fair verification is \$5.00; AK-SAR-BEN verification is \$5.00 (if verifying one animal for State Fair and AK-SAR-BEN, then you will be paying \$10).

Reminder: A maximum of 6 head may be identified per youth.

Costs-- Ear Tags: \$1.00 per tag
Retinal Imaging/DNA: \$5.00 for State Fair; \$5.00 for AK-SAR-BEN



Info needed-- No signatures will be needed at the weigh-in (exception is AK-SAR-BEN DNA)
4H families will have to go in and verify all info is correct before midnight February 1st

We ask that those 4-H members that have county fair only market beef come between 9:00—10:30 am; those that will be identifying animals for State Fair or AK-SAR-BEN come between 10:30—12:00 noon.

Reminder about COOL and how it affects you as a 4H member:

What 4-H'ers Need to Do:

- The Iowa COOL Coalition has come up with a simple affidavit (Country of Origin Label Declaration) that can work for all species of livestock (beef, sheep, swine, poultry, goat). This affidavit is located at: <http://www.iowabeefcenter.org/content/COOL/COOL%20Forms.doc>
- 4-H'ers who raise their own livestock for their projects need to fill this affidavit out and keep it on file for a minimum of 2 years. In the case of an audit, 4-H'ers can provide authorities with this affidavit along with other documents listed at the bottom of page 1 of the affidavit document (birth records: calving report, Pig Champ, PigTales, etc; purchase/sales receipts, etc)
- 4-H'ers who purchase their livestock from others MUST have the producer fill out the affidavit, give it to the 4-H'er, and the 4-H'er should keep the affidavit on file for a minimum of 2 years. For example, a 4-H'er goes to buy his steer from a producer. The 4-H'er needs the producer (seller) to fill out and sign the affidavit.

If there is a conflict with date & time, please contact the Extension office and we will see what we can do to accommodate.

Please Note: If you need assistance in purchasing livestock, please make sure to read the "Additional Notes" section at the end of this newsletter

Club Challenge Results

The Twin River Tornadoes 4H Club would like to extend a thank you to all of our county 4H clubs participating in the Neighborhood Center food and needed items drive. The Neighborhood Center was very excited about the service project and appreciative of everything that was donated. A total of 1100 items were donated by Ringgold County 4H!

The winning club was the Twin River Tornadoes.

MISSION STATEMENT

4-H EMPOWERS YOUTH TO REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL WORKING AND LEARNING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CARING ADULTS



4H Opportunity: CWF Trip

Citizenship Washington Focus (CWF) is a nine-day trip for 4-H youth in grades 10, 11 and 12. The trip provides a setting to experience leadership and citizenship in a whole different way at the National 4-H Center. Youth who have participated in previous trips have returned to report that it has been the single most educational highlight of their 4-H career.

Participants can select either June 8 – 16 or June 15 – 23 to attend the trip. 4-H'ers and adult chaperone will travel by chartered bus to Washington D.C. Some highlights of the trip are: Lincoln's Springfield Home, Gettysburg Battlefield, Capitol Hill, Smithsonian Museums, Mount Vernon and Kennedy Center. Beside tours and workshop you'll have time for socializing and meeting new friends.

Cost of the trip is \$1,370. This includes lodging, transportation, tour site admissions, and most meals. Registration and a \$350.00 deposit will be required to secure a spot. Registration closes December 15, 2011.

To learn more about the trip and get registration information visit: www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/cwf.

4-H Day at the ISU Women's Basketball Game

Don't miss the excitement at Hilton Coliseum as the Iowa 4-H Foundation hosts the 4-H Day at the ISU Women's Basketball Game. Celebrate and connect with 4-H youth, families, staff and volunteers from across the state on January 14, 2012 as the Cyclone Women's Basketball team takes on Texas A&M.



New for 2012, start off your visit to Ames with a "4-H Leads to Careers" tour hosted by the College of Human Sciences (limited to the first 300 who sign up). Then join in the pre-game fun with a tailgate dinner provided from 4:30-7pm at the Scheman Building. Put on your exclusive 2012 Cyclone/4-H t-shirt and walk over to Hilton Coliseum by 7pm to see the Cyclones take on Texas A&M. Ticket packages are \$20 per person and include admission, tour, t-shirt and tailgate meal. Anyone and everyone are invited to attend so bring your families and friends. Find out more and order your ticket packages at www.iowa4hfoundation.org/4hisuwbb. Contact Shelly Greving at shellyg@iastate.edu or (515) 294-1607 for any further information.

2012 Pioneer Grant Information and Applications Now Available!

Pioneer Hi-Bred International is offering Pioneer Community Improvement Grants through the Iowa 4 H Foundation again this year. Clubs in your county are encouraged to apply for "seed money" to help them get started on community projects. The brochure, information, and application are on the web at: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/serve/grants.htm>.

Applications and support letters for 2012 grants are due in the Ringgold County Extension office on January 3, 2012 .

4-H PLEDGE

I PLEDGE MY HEAD TO CLEARER THINKING, MY HEART TO GREATER LOYALTY, MY HANDS TO LARGER SERVICE,
AND MY HEALTH TO BETTER LIVING, FOR MY CLUB, MY COMMUNITY, MY COUNTRY, AND MY WORLD.



Calendar

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER - DECEMBER:

December 3rd: Clover Kids from 9:00 am – 10:00 am @ Extension office

December 4th: County Council meeting @ 6:02 pm @ Extension office

Note: Any 9th-12th grade 4H member may be a part of County Council. Plan to attend if interested.

December 17th: 4H/FFA Market Beef Weigh-In from 9:00 am – 12:00 noon @ Hays Beef Development Center

December 23rd and 26th: Extension office CLOSED for Christmas

Merry Christmas to all our wonderful 4H families!

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER - JANUARY:

January 2nd: Extension office CLOSED for New Year's holiday

January 4th: Ringgold County Extension Council meeting @ 7:00 pm @ Extension office

January 7th: Clover Kids from 9:00 am – 10:00 am @ Extension office

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

- **Grant Money for Service Learning:** During the spring 2011 4-H leader training “My Hands to Larger Service” club leaders were introduced to service-learning. Please consider having your 4-H club develop a plan and complete a service learning project that will improve your community. Reach Out Iowa service learning funds are available, this year only, to help your club with project expenses. To get started contact Dawn at the Ringgold County Extension office or Jane Hayes-Johnk, Youth program specialist at jhjohnk@iastate.edu or 712.243.1132.

Note: There is NO deadline date. Once applications are submitted there is a short turn around time to see if grant monies will be received.

- **USDA Youth Loan Program:** This program is available to 4H and FFA members between the ages of 10-21. This is a great opportunity to offer credit to youth for their agriculture-related projects while at the same time educates them about their responsibilities as a borrower. Fact sheets and loan applications are available at the Extension office and/or the USDA Farm Service Agency.

Photos from our 4H Celebration:



4-H

Fun. Friends. Voice. Choice