



# Clover Connection



County Fair is drawing near. This is an exciting time, however, sometimes there are stressors involved as well. The best way to reduce stress is being prepared in advance. Here are a few tips for having a positive fair experience:

1. Get your fairbook from your leader and read it. Mark the activities you plan to participate in and know the rules.
2. *Work on your exhibits NOW.* It doesn't matter if it's showing your animal or giving a working exhibit, the more you practice, the better prepared you'll be.
3. Find out what your fair assignments are and write them down. Know where you should report for fair set-up and cleanup day; Know what areas your club is in charge of for grounds pick up; What other fair activities have you signed up to help with?
4. Carefully read this newsletter, it contains many valuable tips and reminders.
6. Call our office with your questions. There is no such thing as a dumb question.

Thank you,  
Susan M McKinley

### FAIR CLEAN-UP DAYS

Fair Set-Up:

Friday, July 31 at 6:00 PM

Fair Clean-Up:

Saturday, August 8 at 8:00 AM

See Page 8 in the Fairbook for your club's assignment.

**T-shirts are available at J&J Custom Graphics or there is more information at the Extension Office.**

## IOWA STATE FAIR

The Iowa State Fair will run August 13-23. That means State Fair Livestock and Horticulture entries will be due to our office by **July 1st**. 4-H exhibitors must have completed 5th grade through 12th grade to be eligible to exhibit at the Iowa State Fair. The 2009 Iowa State Fair 4-H Premium Book is now available to view online at, <http://www.iowastatefair.org/competition/4h.php>

### Extension Office Hours

Monday-Friday

7:30-Noon and 1:00-4:30

805 West 10th Street

Atlantic, IA 50022

**There is also a drop box outside the door. This is not a secured mailbox or slot. Please call if you have a conflict and we will try to accommodate. Knock on the door if you feel someone is available during non-business hours. We are happy to help.**

#### ...and Justice for all

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Many materials can be made available in alternative formats for ADA clients. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964.

## Curtis' Corner

I'd like to take this opportunity to remind all of you wonderful people of all the splendid activities coming up that *you don't want to miss*. Right now, three things come to mind. First up, the Youth Council-sponsored pedal tractor pulls. This great event has been around for a couple years. As before, it will be held after the Catch-a-Calf contest on Monday night. Teams consist of six 4-Hers; two from each age division: two juniors, two intermediates and two seniors. In this distinct display of dapper dexterity (sorry, can't resist the alliteration) the teams will relay their way around two cones as the adoring crowd watches on from the grandstand bleachers. Just show up with your team (and your clever team name, of course!) after the catching calves have been caught and get ready to have some fun.

Next up? *Mud volleyball!* I shouldn't even have to describe the magnificent muddy mayhem with a name like Mud Volleyball, because I know you're all getting ready to stick your toes into that wonderful mud in the grandstand and play some volleyball, so here are the details. Nab some 4-H or FFA friends and head out to the grandstand on the Friday of fair at 2:30 to register. The fun starts at three o'clock. You can also register in the Extension Office any time during fair week. Make sure you wear some old clothes; you're going to get messy, eh. Just like the tractor pulls, just show up with your team. To ease your parents' worrisome minds, there are hoses and even showers available in the bathrooms to clean up after you're done having fun.

The last thing I'll talk about today is something that I experienced for the first time last year. It gave me the opportunity to make several new friends, have tons of fun, and gain some 4-H and life experience. Last year I volunteered at the Iowa State Fair for two days. This year, I hope to stay for as long as I can. Everyone can find something to volunteer for that suits their interests. Last year I was a helper with the Share-the-Fun contests, and I had a great time. Believe me, it's not all work and the work is even lots of fun. After you're done working, you get to run around the State Fair and see all the great things there, make new friends and have a blast. To get started on this great journey email Karen Naig (kmnaig@iastate.edu) or head up to the Extension Office. One more note before we part, Ill be there at all these things. So I'll know if you aren't. Remember that. I'm watching for you.

Good Luck,  
*Curtis*

### NEW

#### "Cass County BBQ Smoke-Off"

Rules and entry forms located at Extension Office.

## County Fair Set-Up

Be sure to mark Friday, July 31<sup>st</sup> on your calendar as set-up day for county fair. It is amazing how quickly the fairgrounds transform on set-up day as 4-H members and volunteers work together to prepare for their big week. When your club has finished with the work in your area, the entire club should report to Ray Zellmer in the commercial barn. (Club assignments are listed on p. 8 of the fairbook) If there is additional work to be done, you will be directed where to go. If there is no more work to be done, EACH member of the club will need to sign the attendance sheet for your club. If you aren't present to sign the sheet, you won't be counted as being there. As in the past, *all 4-H clubs and FFA chapters must have 50% of their members and leaders actively participate and sign the attendance sheet to receive premium money*. The same will be followed on Clean-up Day on August 8<sup>th</sup>. Please read page 8 of your fairbook for club assignments.

### 4-H Pledge

I pledge my HEAD  
to clearer thinking  
My HEART  
to greater loyalty  
My HANDS  
to larger service  
My HEALTH  
to better living  
For My club,  
my community,  
my country  
and  
my world



## County Fair Exhibits Judging

Be sure to mark your calendar - 4-H Building Judging will be SATURDAY, August 1 from 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM. That's right, SATURDAY MORNING! Check page 49 of the fairbook for the exact time your club is judged. Be sure to tell your friends and neighbors that the 4-H Exhibit Building will open Sunday at 1:00.

## What To Do When Your 4-H Exhibit Is Judged

Here are some steps you may want to practice before you come to share what you have learned in your 4-H project area with the judge. You might practice these skills with your parents, grandparents, brother or sister or even work on them during your 4-H club meeting. Introduce yourself when you come in and before you sit down.

1. Look at the person you are going to meet and smile.
  2. Use a pleasant tone of voice.
  3. State your name - "Hello (Hi), my name is ..."
  4. While saying this, extend your hand and shake the judge's hand.
  5. Following the judge's greeting telling you his/her name, respond with "It's nice to meet you"
- The judge will try to make your exhibit judging as easy as possible by asking you questions that will help you tell about it. You will find that when you are done sharing your exhibit, the judge will share comments on the things that they see that went well as you learned and they may have some comments on new ideas you might try to learn more about your project or to help you improve meeting your goals.

## Write-ups

As in the past, write-ups will be optional with any exhibit at the Cass County Fair. Write-ups are strongly encouraged. The Iowa State Fair requires that all exhibits have a write-up, so doing them for county fair would be good practice. Be prepared to answer the following with or without a write-up and use these questions as a guide for your write-up:

What were your goals for this exhibit?

What steps did you take to reach your goals?

What was the most important thing you learned as you worked toward your goals?

What ideas or plans do you have for the future based on what you learned?

## State Fair Exhibits

All State Fair static exhibits must be hauled to Des Moines and home again as a group. Individuals will not be permitted to check exhibits in or out at the Iowa State Fair. A few volunteers will be needed to help transport this group of exhibits to Des Moines and back to the Extension Office. Since individuals will not be allowed to check building exhibits out at the State Fair, there will not be State Fair tickets available as we have had in the past.

## Swine Exhibitors

You are required to have a Premises ID number in order to show your hogs at the Cass County Fair. If you have questions about this call the Extension Office immediately.

Your first individual hog is automatically entered in the swine carcass contest. And now you have the opportunity to enter your 2nd individual in the carcass contest too. If you want to enter your 2nd hog in the carcass contest you must do that through your club leader by July 13. There is a \$6 entry fee to sign up your 2nd animal for carcass.

## Poultry Exhibitors

**ALL birds** and NPIP paperwork need to be at the fairgrounds on **July 25th from 8:00 am. to 10:00 am.** If you do not have NPIP papers your birds will be tested that morning free of charge for Pollorum Typhoid. Birds not brought in on Saturday, July 25th will not be allowed to show at the fair.

## Catch-A-Calf

Cass County 4-H'ers will have the opportunity to participate in the Catch-A-Calf program. The Fairboard has secured sponsors for 10 calves for the program. There will be 2 divisions: grade 4-6 and grade 7-9. Five names of 4th-6th grade 4-H'ers will be drawn Monday night of fair, after the beef show and those individuals will receive calves. Ten 7th – 9th grade 4-H'ers will be drawn to compete to catch 5 calves in the show ring Monday night. 4-H'ers wanting to participate in this event must complete an application form which is available at the Extension Office. All applications are due July 13. A complete set of rules and expectations will be available with the application.

## 4-H/FFA Herdsmanship

Herdsmanship is all about providing good stalling and housing for your animals while they are at fair. Your efforts to have clean bedding, animals that are clean and comfortable and an attractive appearance to your area of the barn will have a lot to do with how many people walk through the barns to look at your exhibits and have a positive experience at our fair.

We want to show people that raising and caring for our animals is important. Livestock exhibitors are expected to keep their barn area (stalls, tack areas, walkways, tools, etc.) orderly, neat and attractive as possible. Herdsmanship duties are the responsibility of the exhibitors. Livestock areas will be inspected twice daily by senior 4-H members. Each club/chapter will be rated daily. Read page 44 in your fairbook for more detailed information on Herdsmanship.

Cass County 4-H clubs have always taken pride in keeping their barn areas clean and neat. The Herdsmanship Superintendents want to recognize you for your hard work. The first place Herdsmanship club will receive a swimming/pizza party after fair. Now that's something to work for!

Reminder:

Each 4-H Club is required to have a manure wagon at County Fair!

# July 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 State Fair Entries, Activity Forms for County Fair Due to Extension Office	2 Fairboard @ 7 PM	3 Office Closed Univ. Holiday	4
5	6 JR Daycamp Registrations Due to the Extension Office	7 Poles 6 PM	8	9	10 JR Daycamp 8:00am—2:30 pm	11
12 Mock Horse Show	13 County Fair live- stock entries due to the Extension Office	14	15 Barrels @ 6 PM	16	17	18
19 Riding Review 4 PM	20	21 Queen Interview Day @ Main Street Grill	22	23 Riding Review 6 PM	24	25 Poultry Testing 8-10 am @ the Fairgrounds
26	27 Superintendent's Meeting @ 7 PM	28	29 Riding Review 6 PM	30	31 Clean-Up Day 6 PM	



## Livestock Affidavit

The issue of using drugs with livestock in an illegal manner has become a great concern at local fairs. Random testing may be performed on fair animals and action taken to remedy violations. The Cass County Fairboard requires Livestock Exhibitors at the Cass County Fair to complete an affidavit. A small number of affidavits were provided to club leaders, but may be picked up at the Extension Office at any time. Each exhibitor showing beef, sheep, swine or goat must fill out this affidavit and return it to the fair veterinarian at check-in. Failure to turn in a properly completed affidavit will result in not being allowed to compete. New since last fair, a 4-H'er agrees that they have followed COOL (see right) regulations when they sign the affidavit.

## Judging Contest

The Cass County Livestock Judging Contest will be held on Tuesday, August 4<sup>th</sup>. Registration will begin at 3:30 PM at the FFA Foodstand and the contest will start at 4:00 PM at the outdoor show ring. Get a team together from your club. Rules are on page 43 of the fairbook.

### Reminder:

Each 4-H Club is required to have a manure wagon at County Fair!

See page 13, Rule #12 of your Fairbook.

## AK-SAR-BEN

The deadline to nominate AK-SAR-BEN market livestock was June 15. **AK-SAR-BEN** entries are due at the County Extension Office on Wednesday, August 12. Mark you calendars as this is just after county fair and late entries will not be accepted.

To be eligible to exhibit at the AK-SAR-BEN Livestock Exposition the 4-H member must be at least 10 years of age by January 1, AND must meet the requirement for exhibition as set by 4-H office in the state of 4-H membership. 4-H members having completed their membership eligibility in a state are ineligible to enter the AK-SAR-BEN 4-H Livestock Expo as a member of another state. (from the Knights of AK-SAR-BEN Office)

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the County Youth Coordinator, Susan McKinley. Thank you for your cooperation!

## Mark All Your Exhibits and Tack

It is always in your best interest to mark all pieces of your exhibit with your name, club, address, and phone number. Don't forget to mark your tack! Taking a broom, bucket and grooming brush to fair may not seem like a lot of stuff--until you lose it. Marking everything will help you identify your own tack and will help identify who lost items belong to!

## COOL

### Country of Origin Labeling

What 4-H'ers need to do:

#### Ask for documentation—

4-H'ers need to make sure they collect documentation from the seller when purchasing livestock projects.

Documentation could include: signed affidavit from seller of livestock, bill of sale, health papers or brand inspection.

#### Keep documentation for 2 years minimum-

4-H'ers must keep the appropriate documentation for a minimum of two years in the case of a USDA audit.

# IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

## University Extension

Cass County Extension Services  
805 West 10th Street  
Atlantic, IA 50022



# Cass County Clover Connection

## Senior Mud Volleyball

The Youth Council is sponsoring a Mud Volleyball Tournament for senior 4-H'ers on Friday, August 7. The double elimination tournament will begin at 3:00 PM in front of the grandstand. Four players (2 girls & 2 boys) must be on the court at all times. Your team may consist of up to 6 members to allow for substitution. 4-H'ers may play on only one team. Teams can register at the volleyball net at 2:30 on August 7 or in the Extension Office the week of fair. Grab your 4-H friends and form your team!

## Garden Pedal Tractor Pull

Monday night entertainment at the fair will be YOU! Cass County 4-H'ers are invited to compete by pedaling garden tractors! This unique piece of equipment is a regular garden tractor re-built with pedals, just like the ones the little kids ride – but big kid size. Clubs are invited to create teams with 6 members (2 juniors, 2 intermediates, and 2 seniors). Teams are encouraged to be from 1 club; however 2 clubs may combine if necessary. Each club is limited to 2 teams. Teams will register Monday night at 7:30 in

Dear 4-H'er's,

You may remember seeing in the newsletter a few months ago a challenge from the Brighton 4-H club to the rest of the clubs in Cass County. The challenge was to see what club could raise the most money for the fair board, in efforts to build a new food stand at the fair grounds! In return, the fair board is going to donate a prize to the winning club. The deadline for this money to be into the extension office was June 1<sup>st</sup>. We are well past June 1<sup>st</sup>, and we don't have as much money as we would like turned into the office. In hope that more clubs will partake in this event, we are extending the deadline to September 30<sup>th</sup>. Remember, every large check, dollar bill, and bit of pocket change counts!

Sincerely,

Tim Olsen, President of Brighton 4-H Club