



Cass County 4-H News

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Fall is here and we are about to start a new 4-H year. New officers are being elected in your 4-H club meetings and new members are being introduced to what 4-H is all about. Our goal in Cass County and across the state is to grow 4-H membership by three percent. That will take effort on the part of all 4-H clubs, their members, and leaders to invite new members to participate and develop club programs that continue to involve current members in leadership, citizenship and communication activities. If your club is looking for something different for community service, take a look at the articles in this newsletter about the State 4-H Camp. 4-H is a great organization with many different opportunities to learn and grow!

Igniting the 4-H Spirit,

Steve Olsen
County Extension Education Director



Extension Programs are available to all without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age or disability.

HAVE YOU HEARD?

- **Bear Grove Blazers & Pymosa** donated cookies to the Bloodmobile.
- **Drew Ladd & Curtis Ullerich** participated in the State 4-H Award interviews. Drew received a State Project Award in Leadership and Curtis Received a State Project Award in Music.
- **Independent 4-H** is an option for 4-H'ers who can not make a traditional 4-H club setting work for them. Members work with a mentor in a self-study program. If you want to see if this is an option for you give Steve a call for more information.
- If **your club** is planning or has done something special, let us know at the Extension Office so we can include it in the 4-H Newsletter.

NATIONAL 4-H WEEK

National 4-H Week will be celebrated October 5-11. This is a time for us to help our communities become aware of our great program. It can also be an opportunity to recruit new 4-H members. Ideas to celebrate National 4-H Week include: make a window display at a local business, wear 4-H shirts to school, hang posters promoting 4-H in schools or businesses, send a plant or balloon to a 4-H supporter, give a classroom presentation about 4-H, enclose brochures about 4-H in church bulletins, or write letters to the editor about 4-H. Above all - - - Have Fun!!! We have many things to be proud of and this is our week to share them with the public.

4-H ENROLLMENTS DUE NOVEMBER 3

Remember that 4-H enrollment forms are due in the Extension office by November 3.

RECRUIT A FRIEND

We are starting a new 4-H year and it's a great time to invite others to be a part of the 4-H program with you! Do you have a friend that hangs around with you at fair but is not a 4-H'er? Invite them to your next club meeting. Is there someone new in your school who may be interested in 4-H? Ask them to join! New members can enroll with your club leaders or stop at the Extension office to pick up a new member enrollment form.

COUNTY CONVENTION

Sunday, October 12th 2:00 PM
Cass County Community Center

What better way to celebrate National 4-H Week than with County Convention? To help move things along, we are asking that clubs sit together during the program.

Club pictures will be taken in the lobby after your club has been presented on stage.

Recognition will be given to project award winners and leaders and the new Youth Council will be installed.

Special club awards will be presented this year like:

- Best Community Service Project
- Herdsmanship Awards
- Club Officer Books
- Best Window or Display during National 4-H Week
- Best attendance at County Convention

Remember to wear your 4-H uniform!

Let's see EVERY club represented at County Convention!

SHOW YOUR 4-H SPIRIT

All 4-H members, leaders, parents 4-H alumni and friends of 4-H are urged to show their 4-H spirit by wearing their 4-H t-shirt or green and white on Wednesday, October 8!

LEADER RECOGNITION

Several clubs have volunteer leaders who will receive recognition at County Convention. We hope you encourage them to attend and offer your congratulations for many years of dedicated service to Cass County youth.

Five-Year Awards: Bill Nichols, Linda Nichols, Marjorie Frisbie, Darcy Schwanke, Sue McDuff, Angie Amos, Jana Coughlin, Todd Martens, Rod Sothman

Ten-Year Awards: Gerri Blake, Marsha Bierbaum, Sherry Seyler

Fifteen-Year Award: Ross Havens

Thirty-Five Year Award: Marlys Berry

AK-SAR-BEN EXHIBITORS

Fourteen 4-H members will represent Cass County at the Ak-Sar-Ben Livestock Exposition September 23-28. They include: Minden Brix, Daylan Kleen, Austin Sonntag, Erin Steele, Shane Suhr, Heather Reyna, Logan Potter, Tanner Potter, Kyle Havens, Hallie Peck, Marshal McDermott, Jon McDermott, and Dexter McDermott.

A Cass County team will compete in the beef Show Chow Fitting Challenge with preliminary grooming heats approximately 11 am Friday, Sept. 26, with finals Saturday following selection of the Champion Market Beef. Members of the team are Shane Suhr, Erin Steele, and Tanner Potter with Trace Ticknor and Dexter McDermott as alternates. If you are at AKSARBEN, stop by to cheer them on as they compete for some great prizes!

OFFICER TRAINING

So you have been elected to serve as an officer of your 4-H club. Unsure of what your role is as a club officer? Not sure how to get started in your new job? So what do you do?

The Youth Action Committee is again bringing the training to YOU! A team of Youth Action Committee and Youth Council members will be visiting each 4-H club in Cass County.

They will work with the club's officers before a regular meeting to explain their responsibilities. The training team will stay for your club meeting, and share some information with your entire club on Parliamentary Procedure. Leaders, please let us know what meeting date works for you.

TREASURER TRAINING

As you know, the club treasurer has an important responsibility. Several of you mentioned that these officers needed training beyond what we offered at the club meeting. We have listened to your concerns and agree that this is necessary. Club treasurer training will be held on **Tuesday, October 28th at 7:00 PM** at the Community Center in Atlantic. In addition to your club treasurer, we would like one leader or adult to attend with the officer.

PIONEER GRANT

Pioneer Hi-Bred International will again sponsor the Rural Community Improvement Program. They will offer grant money, which the club can use as a starting point on the project. Applications and details are available at the Extension Office. Deadline to apply is December 1.



LEADER TRAINING

The fall 4-H Leader Training will focus on **vibrant** 4-H clubs that use “best practices” to energize their club. The training will take place **Thursday, Oct. 16, at 7:00 pm** at the Cass County Community Center. This statewide leader training program was implemented last year and requires general/organizational and project leaders to attend/complete two trainings per year in order to remain a 4-H volunteer. The primary reason for this requirement is a commitment to quality for the youth and families in the 4-H program. Secondly, it assures that volunteer training is consistent across the state so all Iowa 4-H members have the same access to well-trained volunteers. Another reason is to ensure that volunteers who have direct one-on-one contact with youth receive on-going updates on youth development and risk management issues. And last, but not least, is to protect you, the leader. As a trained 4-H volunteer you are also a volunteer for Iowa State University and are covered by Iowa State's tort liability protection.

Evaluations from 4-H leaders across the state who attended face-to-face training report the interaction with other leaders at these trainings is valuable to them. We urge you to attend the Oct. 16 training if at all possible. If that date does not work, on-line training and use of a DVD training module will be available by contacting the Extension office.



YC 2 – 4-H LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

4-H'ers in grades 7-9 have been mailed a special invitation to participate in this year's YC 2 – 4-H Leadership Council. YC 2 members will meet 4 - 5 times during the year to have fun and develop leadership and teamwork skills. Council members will also get to plan and organize a county 4-H event for other 7-9th grade youth. Past groups have organized the intermediate lock-in, painted bleachers, played putt putt golf, and planned a trip to the zoo.

There is no selection process. Any Cass County 4-H'er in grades 7-9 who turns in their application by **Monday, October 6** will be able to participate. The first YC 2 meeting will be Sunday, October 19 at 3:00 PM at the Community Center in Atlantic.

7-9th grade 4-H'ers should have received an application in the mail. Applications are also available on the Cass County Website.



AREA 4-H COUNCIL

Applications for the Southwest Area 4-H Council are available at the Extension office. Members of the Council will meet with 4-H'ers from 20 counties in SW Iowa to identify needs, share ideas, plan programs, develop new friendships, and have fun. Applications must be returned to the Extension office by Friday, October 3.

CLUB BY-LAWS

When was the last time you reviewed your club by-laws or rules? Do your rules still make sense and work for your group? Do you have members who don't know what your club rules are? Since we are beginning a new 4-H program year, now is a great time to dust off your rules, review them as a group, update them, make copies for everyone, and distribute them. Make sure your club also submits a current set of by-laws to the Extension Office.

PICK A PROJECT PAPER



4-H Projects provide an opportunity to learn new skills, new ideas, and new information. But unless you choose your projects wisely, you may miss these opportunities and the projects become a burden or are just ignored.

To help you pick what projects you want to carry this year. Start by reading the 4-H Pick A Project Paper. Your leader should give this to you with your enrollment form.

The Pick A Project paper lists all of the 4-H projects available to you with a description of what can be learned.

If you have ideas about what you want to do, but aren't sure what project it goes under, ask your leader or talk to Steve in the Extension Office. Start your year out wisely. Pick projects that interest YOU!

VOLUNTEER AT 4-H CAMPING CENTER

Looking for a great citizenship project? Volunteer at Make a Difference Day at the Iowa 4-H Camping Center Saturday, October 11 from 9:00-3:00, or any part of the day you can help. 4-H clubs, families, and friends are invited to help make a difference by painting, staining buildings, chipping trails, taking down dead trees, stacking firewood, taking inventory and general cleaning tasks. Free morning refreshments will be provided, but bring your own lunch if you will be there for the day. Bring your tools (labeled with your name) to accomplish the above jobs and be ready to have fun outdoors. Please call the Center at 515-795-3338 if you or your club plans to volunteer.

CHRIS CLOVER COSTUME

Is your club planning something special during National 4-H Week?



Does your community have an upcoming parade, activity or winter walk where you can promote 4-H? The new Chris Clover Costume is available for 4-H clubs to borrow for these events. Because of the size of the costume, we recommend that it be worn by Intermediate or Senior 4-H members. We also require that somebody accompany Chris Clover at all times because he has limited visibility. If you would like to borrow Chris Clover for an upcoming event please call the Extension Office to make arrangements.

4-H CLUB SPOTLIGHT BENTON BLUE RIBBONS

There are many ways to be involved with 4-H. From giving a tour or demonstration of your job or hobby, providing volunteer time as a superintendent or club leader, or just coming to watch members show their hard work at the county fair. And that is as an adult. As members, 4-Her's have many ways of growing and supporting their 4-H clubs not just at the local level, but to county, to area, to state and even national levels.

Curtis Ullerich is just one of the many examples of these extremely involved 4-Her's. Curtis has served on County Youth Council, Southwest Area 4-H Council, and State Council. "With opportunities like these I have learned responsibility, leadership, and met awesome friends. I will keep these lessons and memories with me for a lifetime. I encourage everyone to participate in these programs" says Curtis.

But it is not just individuals that are heavily involved with 4-H. The Benton Blue Ribbons 4-H club, with nineteen members, specializes in community involvement. Many of their members are represented on County Youth Council, Youth Council 2, Southwest Area Council, and State Council. They also participate in many Community Service projects. The Benton Blue Ribbons celebrate fall with Cass Incorporated with a Harvest Party. The members provide a meal and games for the residents. Highland Cemetery Clean-up is another club favorite. 4-Her's rake leaves, clean out flower pots and set up the knocked over stones. Club members also sponsor two or three names a year from the Angel Tree, fill Easter eggs with candy of the Wiota boosters' annual Easter Egg Hunt, and also wash dishes and clean plates at the Wiota Fireman's Sweetheart Dinner. As members participate in these projects they learn to take care of the community around them. They feel a sense of belonging and provided greatly appreciated time. With this close knit club, they become their own family, creating lasting friendships. With great annual projects, this club is very open and friendly. But it is not all work. The Benton Blue Ribbons first "Kick-Off" meeting is a bonfire/potluck with games, an annual soup supper in the winter, and picnic meeting in the summer.

In the beginning there were two Benton Clubs. The girls club, Benton Sunshine Club-1946, and the boys club, Benton Future Farmers-1935, were then merged to become the Benton Blue Ribbons in 1984.

Members meet at the Wiota Community Center at 7:15 every third Sunday of every month. Julie Williamson is their Club Leader. Other Leaders include Craig Shriver, Gwen Ullerich, and Ross Havens.

COOL

The USDA is preparing for the mandatory COOL (County of Origin Labeling) that will go into effect September 30, 2008. These new regulations affect 4-H'ers who sell beef, sheep, swine, poultry, and goat. The purpose of COOL is to let consumers know the country where the meat they purchase came from. The requirements for 4-H members are fairly simple and require keeping a signed affidavit that states the country where your animals were born and the country where they were raised.

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 two 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, PigChamp, PigTales, purchase/sales receipts or other financial records).

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 two years. For example, if you buy your steer from a producer, the producer (seller) should fill out and sign the affidavit and give you a copy.

Whether you raise your own animals or purchase them we will need a signed affidavit that you have documentation of country of origin so we can provide the packers with a summarized statement of origin of animals they buy at the fair. So keep in mind that as you buy feeder calves, pigs, lambs, goats or poultry you will need to get a signed affidavit from the seller that states the country where the animals were born. For more information and additional copies of the affidavit you can go to the Iowa Beef Center's website at <http://www.iowabeefcenter.org/content/COOL.htm>. Copies can also be picked up at the Extension office.

4-H CAMP AVAILABLE TO CLUBS

Have you ever considered the fun your club could have at an overnight retreat at the Iowa 4-H Camping Center? Your club could plan programs, get to know each other better, take hikes, and have all kinds of fun! The Iowa 4-H Center, also known as the State 4-H Camp, is located on 1,100 acres of wooded bluff and native prairie in the heart of Iowa's spectacular Des Moines River Valley near Madrid. The 4-H Center consists of five independent villages, a cottage, a central dining/meeting lodge, swimming pool, recreational grounds and eleven miles of hiking trails. All villages except Maple are open year-round. All lodges feature modern full service bathrooms with hot water and showers. Each village has its own outdoor campfire ring, inspiration point, and indoor fireplace.

The Iowa 4-H Center has a special program for a 4-H club's day-use of the facility for free or overnight use for just \$3 per person and one adult stays free for every eight youth members. There would be a charge for meals if desired. This offer is good from August 15 to May 15 each year when the camp is not busy during the summer camp months. There is a Club Coupon available on the Iowa 4-H Center website for your use. The camp staff requests that the club schedule some time during their stay to volunteer about two hours of community service for the Iowa 4-H Center or donate items from the camp wish list and invite the camp staff to speak to your group about the Iowa 4-H Center's history, activities, camps, and Junior Counselor programs. This can be done during a wagon tour of the camp, weather permitting. For more information see their website at

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4hcenter>