



Clover Connection



Spring is...

...is in the air. That means weigh-ins and identification, adding or dropping projects and then on to fair. I urge young 4-H'ers to sit down now and think seriously about their project area goals. Make a plan and stick to it. If you are exhibiting animals at the fair, there are many things you need to think about; participation in club meetings for eligibility, weigh-ins, proper identification and entry deadlines. That doesn't even include care for the animal. Ultimately, this is your responsibility. Adults are here to help. We welcome questions at the Extension Office.

Much of the same is true for projects in the exhibit building. You must add or drop projects by May 15th, the same day livestock identification is due, there are entry deadlines and preparation for the project. If you have questions about setting goals or write-up cards, again please use the Office as a resource. Happy project work!

Forever Green,

Susan McKinley

Susan M McKinley

Swine Weigh-In

Swine superintendent Shane DeBord has announced that swine weigh-in will be Saturday, April 4th from 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m at the fairgrounds in Atlantic.

Maximum beginning weight is 70 pounds. The minimum weight for hogs at the 2009 Cass County fair will be 230 pounds.

Both home raised and purchased pigs will be weighed and tagged. Tags cost \$1 each. Shane also reminds families concerned about disease can have their vet do the weighing, tagging and identifying on their farm on April 4th. Families must come to the extension office before April 4th to get the identification forms and tags. The identification form must be signed by the vet. All paperwork must be returned to the office on Monday, April 6th.

Poultry Information

Market Broiler Class

Any 4-H or FFA poultry exhibitors remember to turn in your order form by Friday May 1st to the Extension Office, if you want to participate in the broiler class. If enough exhibitors, we will be ordering the chicks from Orschlen's.

New this year, **ALL** birds being exhibited at fair **MUST** show up on Saturday, July 25th from 8-10 am. You will need to bring your birds and NPIP paperwork. If no Pullorum Typhoid testing paperwork, your birds will be tested that morning for free. Please mark your calendars now. **Birds not presented on Saturday, July 25th will NOT be allowed to show at fair.**

Rabbits!

Rabbit superintendent Dale Retallic hosted a very informative rabbit project meeting this month. He covered purchasing rabbits and care and showmanship. If you were unable to attend, but would like some additional support as you pursue the rabbit project area, please contact Dale or the Extension Office.

...and Justice for all

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Curtis' Corner

As some of you may have noticed, I have quite a busy life. I'm involved in a lot of activities; too many, my mom would say. So I'll use this space to divulge a bit of acquired knowledge on how I get it all done. It's not easy, and I've had to make concessions, but there are people out there even busier than I. I know some of you out there are busy or your lives are becoming more hectic so here are a few hints.

First off, get a planner; break out that schedule app on your handy-dandy cell phone. It's essential that you know what you need to do and when you need to do it. It keeps you from getting double booked and lets you set aside time for relaxation (if you're into that, that is).

Next, start making lists. To-do lists are great. It gives you a wonderful feeling of satisfaction to cross off all those responsibilities and tasks one-by-one until you're all done and can go watch a movie. I make more than one kind of to-do list. Remember, to-do lists are very similar to goals. I have lists of things I want to get done over the course of months or even years, lists of things for the week, and a list for what I need to do today. Writing things down keeps you from forgetting all those responsibilities and keeps you from eating foot and other social mishaps.

I would advise you to prioritize your activities and know what you'll do when a conflict arises. In a lot of instances this will happen on a case-by-case basis, but you need to know what's important to you. Take a few minutes for some reflection and self-evaluation and decide what's important to you. Will you assist at Discovery Workshop or attend that honor band festival in Nebraska? Will you run in the road race or go to State 4-H Conference?

Decisions, compromises, choices these are words it would be good to familiarize yourself with. Start with a little organization and you'll be off to a great start.

Good Luck,
Curtis

2009 Summer Camp Information

Now On-line at www.iowa4hcamp.com/summercamp. Twelve new camps for 2009! Discounts available for 4-H members, siblings, and early-registrations. Camp registrations must be postmarked by April 1 to receive the early registration discount. Financial aid forms for Iowa 4-H Foundation scholarships are due to county extension offices by May 1.

Area 5th & 6th Grade 4-H Camp June 14-17

Take a ride on the "WILD" side and mark on your calendars to attend **Southwest Iowa's 4-H 5th & 6th Grade Junior Camp**, June 14-17, at the Iowa 4-H Camping Center near Madrid, Iowa. Experience the adventure and excitement of four days filled with 4-H camp traditions and favorite activities, including nature hikes, creek stomping, wall climbing, canoeing, camp songs, swimming, outdoor camping basics, and campfires! Learn to create cool crafts that work great as 4-H working exhibits. Bring a friend with you or make new ones! We listened to you and have extended the fun at camp an extra day. Camp will run from Sunday, June 14th at 3 p.m. until our closing ceremony at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, June 17th.

The downtown spring planting day for the Atlantic Area Chamber of Commerce is set for Tuesday, May 12. It is a great opportunity for 4-H youth clubs and all are welcomed by the Chamber. May 12, 4 to 7 p.m., free dinner, free t-shirt. Just RSVP to the Chamber.

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



2009 Camp Counselors Needed

GREAT friends...

GREAT talks.....

GREAT memories.....

GREAT leadership opportunity....

GREAT for the resume and college application....

GREAT role model that your campers will look up to....

GREAT chance to help younger 4-H'ers grow in their skills....

What could be this **GREAT**?

Being a counselor at 2009 **Area 4-H 5th & 6th Grade Junior Camp, June 14-17** held at the State 4-H Camping Center in Madrid, Iowa.

You just need to be a 4-H'er and 16 by June 13 in time for camp.

You will need to attend the two required training sessions in mid to late May and early June.

Counselors will head up to camp the day before campers arrive, Saturday, June 13 for a workday to finish preparations for camp as well as get familiar with the important programming sites on the camp grounds. Being a camp counselor is also a great leadership opportunity as you are building your resume for college scholarships and leadership roles at school.

VOYAGE TO GREATNESS:

Iowa 4-H Youth Conference June 30-July 2

Mark your calendars! June 30– July 2, 2009, will be Iowa's premiere 4-H &

Youth Conference to be held at the ISU campus in Ames. The theme is

"Voyage to Greatness." Youth who have completed 8th grade through 12th grade will take part in three days of activities including special interest workshops, community service, dances and other fun activities. The Animal Science ROUND-UP is held in conjunction with Conference and provides hands-on experience with livestock and agriculture technology. See you there!

4-H'ers for 4-H

The 4-H'ers for 4-H campaign began March 1, 2009. It is a great way for your club to make the best better for 4-H. It is conducted by the 2008-09 State 4-H Council in partnership with the Iowa 4-H Foundation to support projects that benefit Iowa 4-H'ers statewide. Campaign contributions are due to the Cass County Extension Office by May 15, 2009. The contribution forms were sent to club leaders in March. For more information, contact the Extension Office.

O, What a great Adventure!

Intermediates – the Area Council is planning an adventure paced overnight just for you.

Hold June 10-11th to visit Omaha, stay overnight in the aquarium at the Henry Doorly Zoo, eat and meet other intermediate 4-H members from south west Iowa.

Please visit our web page for many other great opportunities.

www.extension.iastate.edu/cass

Livestock Update

I.D. sheets are due to the Cass County Extension Office on May 15. This is the statewide deadline that must be followed. The entry date for the Cass County Fair is July 13.

FSQA

Iowa 4-H'er's produce over 13 million pounds of meat each year that goes into the American food supply. Consumers expect a safe, high quality food product.

What is FSQA?

The Iowa 4-H Food Safety and Quality Assurance (FSQA) program focuses on seven good production practices that help ensure the safety of the food you produce. 4-H'ers in the swine project have been doing this for years --- it was called PQA III (Pork Quality Assurance.) When 4-H'ers take the 4-H FSQA certification, they also meet the Beef Quality Assurance and Pork Quality Assurance certification.

Who Needs FSQA?

4-H'ers that exhibit animals at the Iowa State Fair and all swine exhibitors

Ages 9-11 (on January 1) must attend a certification program every year to be FSQA certified

4-H'ers ages 12-14 (on January 1) can either attend a workshop every year, OR take a test which is good until they turn 15.

4-H'ers ages 15-18 (on January 1) can either attend a workshop every year, OR take a test which is good until they turn 19.

4-H'ers age 19 on January 1 will need to certify through the adult program.

How do I certify?

Cass County hosts a testing session and certification on March 23. There will be an additional testing and certification in cooperation with East Pott after May 15th. The date will be announced. If a youth is ready to test out, arrangements can be made by contacting the Extension Office.

To study for the test, you may use the FSQA manual (4H-230A) available at the Extension Office. Cost of a manual is \$5.00 and all family members may use it.

Beef

All breeding beef must be identified by May 15. Feeder calves will have an identification date to be announced.

Horse

The Cowpokes schedule has been updated. That is available at the Extension Office and the dates follow: March 22, April 26, May 3, May 7, May 12, May 21, May 31, June 4, June 7, June 14, June 22. Save those dates, but make sure to get a detailed list of meetings.

Sheep

Mark your calendar—Sheep weigh-in will be May 2. County fair-only sheep will weigh from 8-11:00 a.m. and Noon-2:00 p.m. will be Iowa State Fair weigh time.

Meat Goat

The goat weigh-in will be on the same day as sheep weigh-in, May 2. Goats will weigh from 10:00 a.m. – Noon.

Schedule of Events

May

- 2—Sheep Weigh-In, County-only 8-11, State Fair Noon-2
- 2 – Meat Goat Weigh-In, 10 am – Noon
- 15 – Livestock Entries due in Extension Office
- 15 – 4-Hers for 4-H due at County Office
- 15 – Last Day to add or drop 4-H projects
- 23 – Deadline for State 4-H Conference

April 2009

SUN	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Swine Weigh-In 8:30-11:30

Future Dates

- June 30-July 2, 2009 - State 4-H Conference
- August 1-7-Cass Co. Fair
- Aug 13-23, 2009 - Iowa State Fair, "State Fair Time!"
- June 29-July 1, 2010 - State 4-H Conference

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

University Extension

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



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Cass County Clover Connection

Carnival



&

Cakes



March is another busy month for 4-H in Cass County. March 15th we hosted the annual Mardi Gras event, where clubs had booths for dart toss, pop bottle bowling (picture left), cake walks and more. Then, on March 17th, we had the Cass County 4-H Endowment Pancake Supper. Not only was there a lot of fun pancake catching (bottom right) and tasty eating, but there was much support for 4-H. Cass Coed Clan made a special donation of \$20 per member. (Pictured top right, JT Baker and leader Marlys Berry present Endowment Committee member with the check.)

