

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

University Extension
October/November 2009

Clay County Extension
110 West 4th Street, Suite 100
Spencer, Iowa 51301-3858
712-262-2264
FAX 712-262-8481
E-mail- xclay@iastate.edu
<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/clay>



Clay County 4-H Motivator



In this issue:

COVER: Clay County Fair

- ❁ Congrats and Thank You
- ❁ Thank You Notes are Valued
- ❁ Deposit Checks and Redeem Bonds

Member Corner

- ❁ Scramble Calf Sign Up
- ❁ Helpful Hints for Record Books
- ❁ 4H Exhibits on Display
- ❁ Prudential Community of Spirit
- ❁ 4H Endowment Funds Available
- ❁ Beef Weights at the Fair

Office Update

- ❁ Staff Update
- ❁ Clay County Office Goes Green

Leader Corner

- ❁ Leader Meeting
- ❁ Award Nominations

Check out the Clay County Extension web page for news, information and a complete listing of events.

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/clay/>

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.



Clay County Fair 2009



Congrats and Thank You

Congratulations to all the county 4-H members who exhibited projects or livestock at the Clay County Fair. 4-H results from the 2009 Clay County Fair can be found at: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/clay>

A heartfelt thank you is sent out to everyone for all they do to make the 4-H events at the Clay County Fair meaningful and memorable for all those who participate. The 4-H exhibits and events at the fair would not be possible without the 4-H club leaders, committee members, 4-H families, 4-H volunteers, community supporters, and the 4-H'ers themselves. Thank you for making the 2009 Clay County Fair such a success.

Thank You Notes Are Valued

Trophy donors, premium providers, financial supporters and others appreciate 4-H'ers sending thank you notes.

If you have not yet taken a few moments to write a thank you note to your trophy donor, auction buyer or premium provider, please do so now. If you need an address or name in order to complete your note, please give us a call at the Clay County Extension Office, (712) 262-2264.

Deposit Checks and Redeem Savings Bonds

4-H'ers who were awarded monetary prizes or savings bonds during the Clay County Fair, remember to take care of your financial prizes. Please cash or deposit your checks as soon as possible. Certificates for savings bonds should be taken to a bank listed on the certificate to be redeemed.



Member Corner



Scramble Calf Signup

It's time to enroll in the 2009/2010 scramble calf project. The purpose of the Scramble Calf project is to provide an educational beef production experience for beef project members, assist new and younger beef project members to become involved, and provide a mentoring opportunity. 4-H & FFA beef project members will form partnerships with mentors. Clay County 4-H & FFA beef project members who have exhibited beef projects in the 4-H & FFA divisions at the Clay County Fair for five years or less are encouraged to participate and form a partnership. The scramble calf kick off will be held in the first part of July for 4-Hers interested.

Guidelines for the scramble calf program can be found on pages 27-29 of the 2007-2009 4-H & FFA Fair Book. Information from the Extension office can be used in making decisions regarding the project partnerships and arrangements. To sign up for the scramble calf project, simply call (712) 262-2264, email bdalager@iastate.edu or stop in the Extension Office located at 110 West 4th Street, Spencer.

Designate your calf as a scramble calf during the county winter beef weigh-in. The winter weigh-in is the scramble calf program sign-up deadline. (The county market beef weigh-in date is yet to be determined.)

Helpful hints for 4-H Record Books

Record keeping worksheets and materials are now (and always) available at the Clay County Extension Office. Worksheets can be downloaded from the Clay County Extension homepage: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/clay/info/recordkeeping.htm>. As you put your record keeping skills into practice, keep in mind the opportunities you may take advantage of - thanks in part to the good records you have kept throughout your 4-H career.

1. Keep record book neat and clean
2. Include a title page to identify 4-H member, name, age, grade, current year, and club(s)
3. Age and grade at the **beginning of the club year** (Club year runs **January to December**)
4. Completed summary sheet
5. Completed personal goal sheet
6. Evidence of things done to achieve goals
7. Project record worksheets completed
8. Organized and easy to read (Organization example: Cover pages together with the current year first, summary sheets together current year first, personal goal sheets together current year first, project records together by project, starting with current year, worksheets with the appropriate project area)
9. Accurate record keeping
10. Examples of leadership and citizenship for Intermediates and Seniors
11. Pictures and clippings, which relate to project areas (helpful) *Check out the 4-H photo page on the Clay County Extension web site for pictures to include in your record book.*

Before record books are brought to the Extension Office, club leaders must first evaluate them. Leaders will submit only those record books worthy of being nominated for record keeping, project, and special recognition awards. 4-H members need to check with your club leader(s) for club due date for record books.

4-H Exhibits on Display

Thank you to all the 4-Hers who allowed us to display their exhibits in the 4-H Youth & Volunteer Center in the Extension Office over the past year, and thanks to the 4-Hers who have agreed to lend exhibits for this coming year. The generosity of these 4-Hers makes a remarkable difference in the 4-H Volunteer Center.

Prudential Community of Spirit Applications

The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards honor young people in middle level and high school grades for outstanding volunteer service to their communities. Over the past 11 years, the program has honored more than 70,000 young volunteers at the local, state and national level.

Iowa 4-H has been well represented in this program, and each year several state award winners are Iowa 4-H members. Information and applications are available at www.prudential.com/spirit or by calling 1-877-525-8491. Applications must be completed, printed out, signed, and submitted to the Clay County Extension Office by October 29, 2009.

Clay County 4-H Fund and Endowment

Clay County 4-H Fund & Endowment financial assistance applications are available at the Clay County Extension Office throughout the year. Applications are reviewed and funds distributed quarterly. Due dates for applications to be reviewed are March 1, June 1, September 1, and **December 1**.

Beef Weights at the Fair

This past summer weather was excellent for feeding cattle. Weight gain and feed efficiency were excellent. The past few years the final fair weights have been creeping higher and higher. This is good for the youth as sale weights go higher so does the amount of dollars the youth receive for their beef exhibit. This year we have really met market resistance to the heavier weights and hope to ward off a potential problem at the 2010 Clay County Fair.

There is a simple math equation that you can calculate to help avoid an overweight problem at the fair. We would prefer the calves weigh 1200-1400 pounds September 9, 2010. If the beginning weigh-in date is December 30 the calves will be on feed 253 days. Select the average daily gain and projected calf weight at the fair to determine your calf's beginning weight.

Begin Weight	253 days	Average Daily Gain			
400	957	2.2	2.8	3.4	4.0
500	1057	1208	1360	1512	
600	1157	1308	1460	1612	

The Junior Feeder Pens had record breaking average daily gains which caused the same heavy weight issue. We do not want to reduce average daily gain as this is very important to profitability. We are delaying the Junior Feeder weigh-in date to Saturday, March 13, 2010. As you start looking for 2010 beef animals to purchase for the Junior Feeder project we must reduce the weigh-in weights so we can feed for the more efficient high average daily gain. The same hand calculations can be used as with the halter beef. There are 180 days from March 13 to September 9.

Begin Weight	180 days	Average Daily Gain			
500	968	2.6	3.2	3.8	4.4
600	1068	1176	1284	1392	
700	1168	1276	1384	1492	

We want the youth to feed their calves for the most efficient gains without holding them back because of excessive weights. Keep up the great job of feeding and managing your beef projects. If you have any questions contact the beef committees or Dennis DeWitt, ISU Beef Field Specialist.



Office Updates



Staff Update

The Clay County office has been subject to some changes with the recent restructuring of the ISU Extension service. Clay County is still housing three ISU Extension Field Specialists: Jan Burk, Family Resource Management; Jane Goeken, Communities; and Paul Kassel, Agronomy. The County Staff consists of Bonnie Dalager, Program Director; Anissa Jepsen, Office Manager; Jo Engel, Program Coordinator; Jackie Petersen, Bookkeeper; and Linda Swanson, County Fair Coordinator.

Office hours are 8:00a.m.-4:30p.m., Monday through Friday. Please feel free to come by or call 712-262-2264 if you need any assistance from our staff.



Clay County Office Goes Green!

Pick-A-Project

Pick-A-Project newspapers will be available to first year 4-Hers; however anyone can access the Pick-A-Project paper by going to Clay County Extension Office website. www.extension.iastate.edu/clay Access the Kids & Teens/4-H page and the Join 4-H icon on the right hand side will have the Pick-A-Project paper in PDF format. Also, you can visit the Clay County Extension office to view the Pick-A-Project paper.

Motivator

In the coming months, we will begin offering receipt of your Motivator by email. We will send an e-newsletter announcing its availability, which you can then access online. We will continue to offer mailing services for those who wish to opt-in.

Coming Soon

The Iowa 4-H office has some very exciting online updates coming soon that will enable all of the County offices to “Go Green” in new ways. Getting information on clubs, state wide events, local events, service opportunities, leadership opportunities, competitions, projects, and reference material for your projects will be easier than ever. As soon as these updates are launched, we will be sure to let you know how to access all of this information online. Stay tuned!

Clay County Fair Book

In 2010 we will be revising our fair book. While we will continue to print these books for your convenience, we encourage you to help us limit the number of printed copies by accessing it electronically whenever reasonable. If you do not have internet access, our office can supply you with a printed copy at any time.

E-mail Addresses

The amount of information that is transferred through email is increasing, so is important that the Extension Office have a current email address for all 4-Hers, leaders and committee members. Re-enrollment forms will soon be sent home with 4-H members. Please take the time to fill out your email address or make any needed changes in the addresses on this form. We would also appreciate you also taking the time to let us know of address changes when they occur during the next year.



Leader's Corner

4-H Club Leaders Meeting ~ Thursday, October 22nd

All 4-H club leaders are required to complete leader training. We are offering two sessions of the interactive training session for your convenience. There will be a training presentation and leader support materials will be distributed. Discussion items: fair evaluation, upcoming program opportunities and time for feedback. Time for club sharing will also be given.

Leaders may choose to attend either the 12:00p.m.-1:30p.m. or 6:00p.m.-7:30p.m. meeting. A meal will be provided at both meetings. Please call the Extension office (262-2264) or email ajepsen@iastate.edu if you cannot make the meeting and we will help arrange other methods of delivery.

Motivator News

Do you have information or events that you want other 4-Hers to know about? Send us an email at xclay@extension.iastate.edu and we'll include it in a future motivator. It's a great way to get the word out about programs or events your club is planning.



Calendar

All meetings will be held at the Clay County Extension Office, 110 W. 4th Street, Suite 100, Spencer, unless noted otherwise
Clay County Extension Office hours are 8:00am to 4:30pm each weekday.

November-December 2009						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 SESS mtg. 2pm GUMC
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 Extension Office Closed	27 Extension Office Closed	28
29	30	1 Endowment Application Due	2	3 SESS mtg. 6pm Godfathers	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12