



Clay County 4-H Motivator

Helpful Hints for 4-H Record Books

Record keeping is a fun and useful way to show what you have learned throughout the year. Here are the objectives of record keeping.

- To learn how to set goals, make action plans, and determine impact
- To learn record keeping and organizational skills
- To learn to effectively communicate/summarize goals and progress made toward goals
- To learn responsibility by completing a task
- To evaluate information that will market personal skills through future resumes, applications, and scholarship forms.

Remember, record keeping is all about YOU! You can keep records by creating record books and using the forms provided by Extension, but there are **multiple other ways** to keep records. For example, rather than developing a record book, additional record keeping formats could include creating portfolios, PowerPoints, blogs, websites, FaceBook pages, and videos to address progress made toward personal goals.

Please use the 4-H support materials (Basic 4-H Project Record, 4-H Yearly Summary, etc.) as **guides** in addressing various content areas and questions that can be incorporated within your selected record keeping format to illustrate your personal goals, activities participated in to reach your goals, and evaluation of your experiences in trying to attain your goals. Here are some helpful hints:

- Keep your record book neat and clean
- Identify yourself, name, age, grade, current year, and club(s)
- Summary of what you have done this year
- Personal goals
- Evidence of things done to achieve goals
- Project information
- Organized and easy to read accurate record keeping
- Examples of leadership and citizenship
- Pictures and clippings, which relate to project areas

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 their club leader(s) for club due date for record books. **Record books are due from club leaders to the Extension Office on January 5th.**

Clay County Extension

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December 2009

Upcoming Events

12/3- Shooting Sports
Re-Enrollment Meeting

12/7- Youth Council at
Grand Meander

12/17-Scramble Calf
Meeting

12/29-Swim/Skate Party

12/29- Youth Council
Region 1 Lock In

12/30-Halter Beef Weigh
In

1/5-Record Books due to
Extension office from
Leaders

2/15-Enrollments Due

Dynamic New 4-H Website Launches

We are excited to announce that Iowa 4-H has a new look online. This dynamic new website includes an interactive map to help kids and teens connect with 4-H, project links, games, event calendars and an interactive networking site for members. The new site also has an expanded search feature and information for parents, teachers and 4-H volunteers. The address is www.extension.iastate.edu/4-H or type "Iowa 4-H" into your search engine. Make sure to check it out when looking for new project ideas, record keeping resources or just for fun!



Scramble Calf Kick-Off

All 4-H and FFA beef project members interested in participating in the Scramble Calf program are encouraged to attend the Scramble Calf Kick-Off on **Thursday, December 17, 6:30PM at the Clay County Extension Office.**

The scramble calf project is a fun and educational beef production experience where 4-Hers partner with beef mentors. Youth may contact an area producer, who is not a parent or grandparent, to form a partnership or make connections through the Extension Office. Partners will exchange needed information to start the project on the "right foot" and complete partnership agreements. If you have questions about this program, or are interested in receiving or donating a calf, please call (712) 262-2264 or stop in the Clay County Extension Office before the December 17th meeting.

Everyone intending to participate in this program must submit a signed partnership agreement on or before the December 30th market beef weigh-in. Calves must be identified as scramble calves at the weigh-in.



January Marks Start of 4-H Year in Clay County

It's a great time to energize and get excited about the upcoming new 4-H club year! January marks the start of the 4-H year in Clay County. Take time to encourage family members to become involved, invite prospective members to visit your 4-H club meetings and welcome new members to join. Enrollment, Code of Ethics and Medical Forms along with 4-H annual fees should be turned into club leaders and not directly to the Extension Office. **Enrollments from club leaders are due to the Extension office by February 15.**

Please consider enrolling all previous club members, as well as new members, during your January club meeting or early February meeting. Max Yield has offered to pay \$10 of every 4-H member's annual fee that is registered by February 15th. 4-H fee scholarships and financial aid information for Clay County 4-Hers are available at the Extension office. Each club will be billed after enrollments have been collected. 4-H fees will be due to the Extension Office by March 15, 2009.



Operation Military Kids

Support for Clay County military kids is available through Clay County 4-H. Military kids face many challenges in their lives and can benefit from the safe environment, sense of belonging, and caring adults found in 4-H clubs. Operation Military Kids will reimburse the 4-H fee for any 4-H member whose parent serves in any branch of the military, regardless of deployment status.

This applies to all children, step-children, or siblings of military personnel - all service branches and either active, guard, or reserve. Parent or sibling does not need to be deployed for 4-H members to qualify.

To learn more about Operation Military Kids or the Clay County 4-H Program contact Anissa Jepsen, County Youth Coordinator, at the Clay County Extension Office, 110 W. 4th Street, Spencer, 712-262-2264 or ajepsen@iatstate.edu.



Halter Beef Weigh In Date Set

The Halter Beef Weigh In will be held on **Wednesday, December 30th** at the Spencer Livestock Sale Barn.

Calves will be identified for the Clay County Fair from 10:00 to 11:00 ONLY. The cost will be \$1.50 per calf with 6 being the maximum number of calves each youth may identify. The six head may be a combination of steers, heifers, and a scramble calf.

Calves will be identified for State Fair and AK-SAR-BEN from 11:30 to 12:30. The cost will be \$5.00 per calf for State Fair and an additional \$5.00 for AK-SAR-BEN. State Fair calves will have a retinal image taken, but AK-SAR-BEN calves will be processed using a DNA hair sample. Please call the Extension Office for additional information regarding signatures and nomination papers.



Iowa 4-H Recognition/Scholarship Opportunities

The Iowa Promise Youth grant is designed to encourage local youth groups in Iowa to partner with at least one other community group to plan and carry out a community service or improvement project. Groups are to submit a report at completion so other communities can replicate the project. Grants up to \$250 are available for community projects involving two or more local groups and are sponsored by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service in partnership with Iowa State University Extension 4-H Youth Development. More information is available at <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4H/iowaspromise.html>. **Applications are due February 1.**

Hixson Opportunity Award is a grant of \$10,000 (\$2,500 per year for four years) to be used at Iowa State University. One hundred high school seniors from across Iowa will receive the award each year. Ideally, recipients will represent each county in the state. If you are a high school senior who demonstrates potential in ways that go beyond class rankings and test scores, you may wish to apply. For application information contact your school guidance counselor or visit the following web site: <http://www.iastate.edu/~hixsonawards/>. **Application deadline is February 1, 2009.**

There are also a wide variety of 4-H College Scholarships available at the state level. You can find a list of scholarships and requirements at <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4H/grants.html>. **Application deadline is February 1, 2009.**

This year, we will again hold recognition events and selection on an area and statewide basis. Opportunities youth can apply for include: Iowa 4-H Youth Tech Team, Iowa State 4-H council, National 4-H Congress, National 4-H Conference, and state 4-H project awards. You can find the following information on all of these opportunities for the Northwest region at www.extension.iastate.edu/emmet/info/awards.htm

- Northwest Iowa Award Application Form
- Videos descriptions from past award winners
- Grade requirements
- Detailed information
- Evaluation criteria
- Support material hints
- Interview tips



Applications and support material are due to the Clay County Office on March 2nd with interviews held on March 30th. The state 4-H recognition event will be held at ISU on Saturday, Aug. 28.

State 4-H Livestock Rules Changes

The state 4-H has announced the 2010 Livestock rules and updates. You can view these changes on the Clay County Extension website or go to the State 4-H website. Please make yourself familiar with the changes that effect your project area.

4-H 202 Change

- Market Beef ID deadline is now Feb. 1, not Jan. 15

Swine Changes

- 2010 Weigh-In Dates: Sat., April 24 - Sat., May 1
- Derby ratio requirement dropped; market hog exhibitors will be required to show/exhibit ONE derby hog, period.
- Derby spring weight limits: 45 lbs. on Apr. 24, 52 lb. limit on May 1; use an increase of 1 lb. per day limit
- All commercial breeding gilts will show by State Fair weight, not birthdate
- All purebred gilts/barrows will show by the birth date listed on the registration paper, even if it conflicts with the date on the ID form; remember, original copy of the registration paper/litter registration must be presented @ State Fair check-in

IMPORTANT Schedule Changes

- All swine will only be allowed to be on the grounds for 3 days
- Pigs will not be allowed to be held over for open shows if showing in FFA/4-H shows
- Order of shows has changed: FFA, then Open, then 4-H
- 4-H Swine days: Tuesday, Aug. 17 - Thursday, Aug. 19
- With one less day for 4-H, both showmanship and premier exhibitor contests will be held in the evenings

Horse Changes

- Walk/Trot class eliminated
- 4-H horses can arrive Monday afternoon/evening for State Fair
- New Exhibition Center will be utilized for check-in, exhibitor meeting, and Tuesday's shows
- Don't forget ID rules on leasing horses; a 4-H lease form is required to be filled out and attached to your ID form for leased horses. Refer to 4-H 202 and your 4-H 106 ID form for specific rules

Meat Goat Changes

- Don't forget to put down a birth date for breeding meat goat does
- Schedule Changes:
 - Arrive Friday afternoon
 - Check-In early Friday evening
 - Show Saturday mid-morning
 - Specific times will be posted online

Sheep

- ALL commercial ewes will be required to have a 4-H tag
- Retinal images will NOT be required for commercial ewes; only market lambs
- Don't forget about the new State Fair Performance Lamb carcass window; there is a Window A and a Window B (boxed lamb) division. All lambs are ranked that fit the particular parameters for each window. See the 4-H website for more details, www.extension.iastate.edu/4H/projects/livestock/sheep.htm

FSQA Updates

FSQA manual for staff and 4-H families is ONLY available online; staff/families can print off for their needs

New Power Point Presentation for staff will be posted by Jan. 1



Clay County Fair Book will be updated this year.

The revised Fair Book will be available after March 15th.

Iowa 4-H Volunteer Retreat-Keep Soaring With 4-H

The 2010 Iowa 4-H Volunteer Retreat will be held on February 26 - 27, 2010 in Ankeny. Volunteers and 4-H members who are Intermediate or Senior age (7th through 12th grades), who are involved in the leadership of 4-H at project, club, or county programs are invited. The Retreat is being developed as a train-the-trainer event. We hope participants will use information from the sessions to teach 4-H members in their clubs and counties.

This year's Retreat is hosted by DMACC Continuing Education and sponsored by ISU Extension. All activities, Friday evening and Saturday, will take place at the Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) Campus in Ankeny. The registration fee will include sessions during the time you are registered, a snack on Friday evening and during registration on Saturday, lunch, and beverages during the day. You will receive general CEU credit through DMACC for attending the sessions. There is no extra charge for the Friday session. Please contact the Clay County Extension Office or visit <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/Volunteers/retreat.htm> for more information on this fun and exciting opportunity.



Fall 2009 Volunteer Training

The Fall 2009 Volunteer Training: Supporting Family Involvement online course and DVD self-study module is ready to go. Visit www.extension.iastate.edu/4hvolunteers to see the online training enrollment page. There is also a DVD self-study alternative version available. Volunteers have until July 15 to complete the two training sessions.



Shooting Sports Re-enrollment Meeting

All current Shooting Sports members are invited to the Shooting Sports Re-enrollment Meeting on **December 3rd at 6:00pm** at the Spencer Godfathers. There will be a new member meeting held in January.



Clay County Extension Office on Facebook

The Clay County Extension Office now has a Facebook page! If your family has a facebook account, you can keep up to date on Extension news and Clay County events by becoming a fan. Use the facebook search box and search for "ISU Clay" and find our page titled ISU Extension Clay County.



Swimming and Ice Skating Party



4-H'ers and their friends in grades 4-9 are invited to a multi-county Swimming/Ice Skating Party on **December 29 from noon - 4:00 pm** at the Sioux Center All Season Center. We have the ice rink reserved for 4-H skating from noon - 1:00 pm and swimming and/or skating will be from 1:00-4:00 pm, 4-H Project Find Out, food, fun and games. Cost per person is \$8.00 (an extra \$2.00 if you need to rent skates for a total of \$10.00) and covers the swimming/skating, activities and food. RSVP to the Sioux Extension Office by calling 737-4230 or email Cindy at clever@iastate.edu. Don't miss this chance to spend time with old friends and make new friends! Deadline to register is December 23.





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New "Clover Challenge" Contest Announced for 2010



The Clay County Extension Office is excited to announce a new contest for all Clay County 4-Hers. The "Clover Challenge" is a way for 4-Hers to learn more about different project areas and earn points toward prizes for themselves and their club. The rules are simple:

1. Each month the Extension office will announce a project area focus in the Motivator and on the website.
2. There will be information on the project area focus and 3 "challenges", each with a point value that is assigned both to the club member and to the club they designate on the entry form. Double points will be awarded if the challenge is used as an exhibit at Achievement Day.
3. Each month you can complete as many challenges as you want between January 1 and July 31, 2010.
4. Submit a description of how you completed your challenge to <http://bdalager.wufoo.com/forms/clover-challenge-entry-form/> by July 31st. We will have a link on our website.
5. The Clay County Extension staff has final determination of points and awarding of prizes.

Club prize will include a display area at the Clay County Fair Exhibit Building showcasing their challenge entries and other community service activities and a gift basket. The individual winner will receive a gift basket.

The Motivator is "Going Green"

Beginning in January 2010, the Motivator will be delivered electronically. We will use the email on file to send your motivator to you, and you may opt out of the email list at any time. If you'd like to sign up for any of our email lists, including 4H, you may do so on our website. Please email Anissa Jepsen at ajepsen@iastate.edu if you prefer to have a copy of the motivator mailed to you.