

December 2008



## Clay County 4-H Motivator



### In this issue:

- ✿ 2009 Iowa 4-H Scholarships
- ✿ Helpful Hints for Record Keeping
- ✿ Seasonal Gift Ideas
- ✿ 2009 4-H Enrollments
- ✿ Invest in the Future of 4-H Youth
- ✿ Support Military Kids through 4-H
- ✿ 4-H Committee Meetings
- ✿ Scramble Calf Kick-Off
- ✿ 4-H/FFA Market Beef Weigh-in
- ✿ COOL (Country of Origin Labeling)
- ✿ "Youth in Agriculture" Loans
- ✿ SESS 4-H Club New Member Meeting
- ✿ N. Central IA Beef Youth Conference
- ✿ Christina Hixson Award
- ✿ "Iowa's Promise Youth" Grant
- ✿ 2009 State Leaders' Retreat
- ✿ Motivator Contest
- ✿ Clay County 4-H Scholarship
- ✿ Livestock Judging Team
- ✿ Calendar of Events

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

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

Congratulations to **Sam McCoy**, Clay Raiders, for being the first person to contact me with the correct answer to the trivia question in the November issue of the 4-H Motivator.

Be the first person to email [kday@iastate.edu](mailto:kday@iastate.edu) with the correct answer to the trivia question in this month's 4-H Motivator and win a PRIZE!

Dear 4-Her:

Information is now available on the 2009 Iowa 4-H scholarship program. As a high school senior, you may be eligible to apply for one or more of the 4-H scholarships awarded to 4-Hers who will be college freshmen in the fall of 2009.

If you are planning to continue your education next year, please check with us about available 4-H scholarships, eligibility requirements, and the application process. **It is important to check eligibility carefully. Some scholarship programs have specific college major, place of residence, and/or participation requirements.**

There are opportunities for students pursuing any course of study, as well as some specific agriculture and home economics scholarships at both four-year and community colleges in Iowa. More than 90 scholarships totaling nearly \$100,000 will be awarded to Iowa 4-Hers. If interested, you will need to complete a special 4-H application, transmittal form, secure two letters of recommendation per instructions, and attach a current grade transcript of your school records through fall 2008. 4-H Scholarship information, forms, and applications are available from the Extension office and also on [www.extension.iastate.edu/clay/info/4-H+Scholarships.htm](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/clay/info/4-H+Scholarships.htm)

The completed application, including two letters of recommendation and current grade transcript, must be **received** at the State 4-H Youth Development Office **before or on February 2, 2009**. We suggest you plan ahead, allowing time to carefully complete the application materials.

Stop by or give us a call, 712/262-2264, if we can help you.



## Helpful Hints for 4-H Record Books

---

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. **Record books are due from club leaders to the Extension Office Friday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>.**



## Seasonal Gift Ideas

---

Looking for that special something as a 4-H memento ... Wishing to purchase that “just right” gift for your favorite 4-H member or enthusiast ... Interested in supporting the local 4-H program and benefiting yourself at the same time... You can find all that you are looking for and more at the Clay County Extension Office.

**4-H Items:** 4-H bears - \$10, 4-H T-shirts - \$10, 4-H Hooded Sweatshirts - \$25, and Smencils - \$1, would be thoughtful gifts for any 4-H'er, 4-H supporter, or 4-H alumni. Proceeds will go toward Clay County 4-H Youth Programs, 4-H promotions, and other 4-H activities.



## 2009 4-H Enrollments

---

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. It's time: for Vice-presidents to organize program planning committees; prepare for the new year; encourage family members to become involved; invite prospective members to visit your 4-H club meetings; and to welcome new members to join.

Enrollment forms, Code of Ethics, and 4-H annual fees should to be turned into club leaders and not directly to the Extension Office. **Enrollments are due from club leaders to the Extension office on or before February 15.** Please consider enrolling all previous club members, as well as new members, at your January club meeting or early February meeting. A small portion of the 4-H program cost is assessed directly to the 4-Hers who benefit. Each 4-H club treasurer is asked to collect the annual fee of \$30 per member at the time of enrollment (or re-enrollment). Max Yield has offered to pay \$10 of every 4-H member's annual fee who is registered by February 15<sup>th</sup>. Confidential requests for further assistance can be made through 4-H club leaders or the Clay County Extension Office. 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.

## Invest in the Future of 4-H Youth

---

The 4-H fee is part of the financial support that makes it possible to maintain and grow our county and Iowa 4-H program. The 4-H fee for 2009 will be \$30, with \$20 going to the State 4-H Program and \$10 remaining in our county (as in the past several years). \*Some clubs may ask for additional fees to cover club expenses. An investment in 4-H develops life skills that work toward our 5 outcomes:

• Leadership • Citizenship • Communications • Personal life management • Subject matter/project experience

The 4-H fee can be generated by:

- Contribution by members themselves • Club fundraising • Scholarships • Membership gift certificates
- A combination of club support and membership dues

The Clay County Extension Council encourages 4-H members, club leaders, and 4-H families to fully utilize the 4-H program and take advantage of the value that can be attained from being involved in this premier youth development program. The council also wishes to inform 4-H families (especially those with multiple 4-H members) that scholarships are available to those who need financial assistance. **No child will be denied access to 4-H programs based on ability to pay.** Funding will be found to cover the cost for those who are unable to pay, be it through the 4-H club, the county extension program, local donors, the county or state 4-H foundation, or the state 4-H program.

We would like to “Thank” Max Yield Cooperative for generously donating \$10 towards each member’s enrollment fee which is paid by February 15<sup>th</sup>.



## Support Military Kids through 4-H

---

Military families are living, working and coping with challenges here in Clay County. Support for these families is available in a variety of avenues. One avenue is through Operation Military Kids. Operation Military Kids is a program designed to build communication networks and community based support for children and families impacted by the increased mobilization and deployment of troops to fight in the Global War on Terrorism.

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.**

Now is a great time for 4<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> graders to join one or more of the of fifteen county 4-H clubs. (3<sup>rd</sup> graders can join as participation members). Youth are welcome to join special interest clubs; Shooting Sports, Casters (fishing & wildlife), or Conquistadors (horse) or community clubs; Clay County Countrymen, Clay Raiders, Garfield Go-Getters, Lincoln Lions, Logan Leaders, Meadow Busy Bees, Meadow Motivators, Peterson Livewires, Spencer Energizers, Sioux Achievers, Sioux Valley Feeders, or Riverton Rebels.

To learn more about Operation Military Kids or the Clay County 4-H Program contact Kathy Day, County Youth Coordinator, at the Clay County Extension Office, 110 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Spencer, 712-262-2264 or [kday@iastate.edu](mailto:kday@iastate.edu).

## 4-H Committee Meetings

---

**Dog Committee** ~ Thursday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 6:00pm

**Halter Beef Committee** ~ Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm

**Poultry Committee** ~ Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 6:00pm

**Horse Committee** ~ Thursday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, 6:00pm

**Sheep Committee** ~ Tuesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, 6:00pm

**Static Committee** ~ Tuesday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, 6:00pm

Meeting agenda items can be found on the Clay County Extension Events Calendar web site:

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

## Scramble Calf Kick-Off ~ December 18<sup>th</sup>

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 18, 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 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Everyone intending to participate in this program must submit a signed partnership agreement on or before the January 2<sup>nd</sup> market beef weigh-in. Calves must be identified as scramble calves at the weigh-in.**

## 4-H/FFA Market Beef Weigh-in ~ January 2<sup>nd</sup>

Date and Location: Friday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Spencer Livestock Sale Barn. (Snow date: January 3<sup>rd</sup>)

### **Identifying calves for Clay County Fair only**

**Time: 10:00-11:00am** for Clay County 4-H and FFA beef project members identifying calves for Clay County Fair only - Cost: \$1.50 per calf.

★ Six is the maximum number of calves each youth may identify. The six head may be a combination of steers, heifers, and a scramble calf. Four of these market beef may be shown in the 2009 Market Beef Shows at the Clay County Fair.

### **Identifying calves for State Fair and/or Ak-Sar-Ben**

**Time: 11:30am-12:30pm** for Clay County 4-H/FFA beef project members wishing to nominate calves for the Iowa State Fair or AK-SAR-BEN - **Cost:** \$5 per calf to nominate for State Fair plus an additional \$6.50 per calf for AK-SAR-BEN.

***To nominate for both is \$11.50 - includes ear tags.***

★ Only calves that have completed the nomination process will be eligible for the State Fair and/or AK-SAR-BEN. (Calves nominated for State Fair will be processed with retinal imaging. AK-SAR-BEN calves will have a DNA sample taken.) After the weigh-in and nomination process is complete it is too late to nominate more calves.

★ Youth and parent signatures required to nominate calves for State Fair and AK-SAR-BEN.

★ Youth and parents must sign and have waivers in the Extension Office before the beef weigh-in for State Fair and/or AK-SAR-BEN nominated calves, if they are unable to be present at the market beef weigh-in.

The waiver allows others to bring the calves to be nominated and verifies that the absent 4-H family will agree with the information taken at the weigh-in. Waivers can be obtained at the Clay County Extension Office or on the following web site:

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4H/Agriculture/Documents/MemParWaiver.pdf>

★ Breed steers **must have** the breed, tattoo, and sire registration information listed on the verification form. Tattoos for breed steers will be checked at weigh-in and recorded on the identification sheet.

**Questions, concerns, or clarification** regarding the market beef weigh-in and nomination process can be directed to the Clay County Extension Office 712-262-2264.



## New Changes ~ Country of Origin Labeling

As many of you know, the USDA is preparing for the mandatory COOL (Country of Origin Labeling) that went into effect **September 30, 2008**. There is an excellent website for those wanting to know more details on the Iowa Beef Center's webpage at <http://www.iowabeefcenter.org/content/COOL.htm>.

### What 4-Hers Need to Do:

- The Iowa COOL Coalition has come up with a simple affidavit that can work for all species of livestock (beef, sheep, swine, poultry, and goat). This affidavit is located at <http://www.iowabeefcenter.org/content/COOL/COOL%20Forms.doc>. Page 1 explains the steps needed to be taken as well as example documents that can be used for an audit trail. Page 2 is the actual affidavit.
- **4-Hers 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-Hers can provide authorities with this affidavit along with other documents listed at the bottom of page 1 of the affidavit document.
- **4-Hers who purchase their livestock from others** MUST have the producer fill out the affidavit, give it to the 4-Her, and the 4-Her should keep the affidavit on file for a minimum of two years. For example, a 4-Her goes to buy his steer from a producer. The 4-Her needs the producer (seller) to fill out and sign the affidavit.

Plans are underway at the State 4-H office to add this topic to the 4-H FSQA (Food Safety Quality Assurance) programs. 4-Hers will have an opportunity to attend just that part of the training if they do not need to attend the entire two hours. If you have questions about COOL and how it relates to 4-H livestock or will be purchasing your market beef animals before the meetings, call Dennis DeWitt at the Dickinson County Extension Office (712-336-3488), Jerry Weiss at the Pocahontas County Extension Office (712-335-3103), or Kathy Day at the Clay County Extension Office (712-262-2264) or email [kday@iastate.edu](mailto:kday@iastate.edu).

## “Youth in Agriculture” Loans

Farm Credit Services of America's Youth in Agriculture program provides funds to help finance 4-H, FFA and other youth projects. Loans of up to \$1,500 per individual are available to be used for production projects that will be repaid within an annual production cycle. Examples to be considered include: feeder pigs, feeder calves, feeder lambs. Other types of projects will also be considered. **Youth in Agriculture funds are available from October 1 through April 1.** For more information contact Eldon Goff at the Emmetsburg Farm Credit office, 800-383-0168.

## 4-H Shooting Sports Club New Member Meeting ~ January 8

Clay County youth in grades 4-12 have the opportunity to join a 4-H shooting sports club. **There will be a New Member Meeting on Thursday, January 8, 6:00PM at the Clay County Extension Office in Spencer.** 4-H Shooting Sports is a youth development educational program that uses the skills and disciplines of the sport to assist young people and their leaders in obtaining knowledge and developing skills. Each discipline teaches safety, concentration, self-discipline, self-confidence, goal-setting, decision-making, and courtesy while developing basic skills that build toward more advanced activities. Both competitive and cooperative skills are included.



Participants are exposed to local policies, regulations, laws, and ethical behavior through both repeated demonstration and personal practice.

**For more information** please contact the Clay County Extension Office at 712-262-2264 or visit [www.extension.iastate.edu/clay/info/sess.htm](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/clay/info/sess.htm)

## North Central Iowa Youth Beef Conference

An educational program sponsored by Iowa State University Extension for North Central Iowa youth involved with beef production will be held **Saturday, January 24, 2009**, at Ellsworth Community College, 1100 College Ave., Iowa Falls, Iowa. The program will run from 9:30 AM to 1:30 PM with registration beginning at 9:00 AM in the T&I Building.

A variety of interactive workshops and sessions are being planned for youth 4<sup>th</sup> grade through high school who register for this event. Topics include: Journey through the Rumen and Beyond & Feeds and Ration Evaluation; Behind the Meat Counter; Speak Out for Beef; and Cattle Behavior & Handling.

There is **no cost** for youth to attend and a noon lunch will be provided. Parents are welcome to stay. Please **pre-register by January 16, 2009** at the Clay County Extension Office. Registrations must include the Iowa 4-H Medical Information/Release Form. Both forms are available on line at <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/clay/kidsteens.htm>.

## Christina Hixson Award ~ Due February 1

The 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.**

## “Iowa’s Promise Youth” Grant ~ Due February 1



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.**

## 2009 State Volunteers’ Retreat ~ February 6 - 7

**Growing Green** is the theme for the 2009 State Volunteer Retreat scheduled for Friday, February 6, and Saturday, February 7, centrally located at the DMACC facility in **Ankeny**.

4-H volunteers, staff, parents, and intermediate/senior 4-H members are encouraged to sign-up for this retreat. Friday evening is a networking/fellowship type gathering with hands-on activities. Workshops and networking fill the day on Saturday, February 7.

A wide variety of workshop sessions will meet the needs of both new and experienced volunteers, staff, and 4-H members. The registration cost is \$25 and includes lunch and snacks. For more information or to register for this fun retreat visit <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4H/volretreat.htm>

## 2008 4-H Motivator Contest

Be the first 4-H member to email [kday@iastate.edu](mailto:kday@iastate.edu) and answer the trivia question in the Motivator correctly. *The answer to the monthly trivia question will be found in the Motivator.* Winners may stop by the Extension Office and select from a variety of prizes. A new winner will be selected each month.

**4-Hers will be eligible to win only once in 2008.**

### **December’s Trivia Question:**

When is the 4-H/FFA Market Beef Weigh-in and where is it located?

## Clay County 4-H Scholarship ~ New Changes

Clay County 4-H Seniors are you planning to continue educational opportunities following high school graduation? We would like to encourage you to apply for scholarships sponsored by the Clay County 4-H Youth Council and Clay County Bankers Association.

The Clay County 4-H Youth Council and the Clay County Bankers Association are pleased to be able to offer scholarships to Clay County 4-H members. A selection committee consisting of current 4-H Youth Council members and adults will select scholarship recipients. **An interview, 4-H record book, and the written application will be used in the selection process.** The interviews will be held on June 30, 2009 at the Clay County Extension Office. Applicants need to make arrangements for a taped interview prior to June 30<sup>th</sup> if they are unable to be present for the live interview. Scholarship award winners will be notified in July 2009.

**Clay County 4-H Scholarship applications, <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/clay/kidsteens.htm>, are due by June 1st to the Clay County Extension Office 110 West 4th Street, Suite 100 Spencer, IA 51301**

## Livestock Judging Team

Have you ever been interested in participating on a livestock judging team? Please contact the Clay County Extension Office 712/262-2264 for more information.

## **Calendar of Events**

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

- December 8 (Monday) Halter Beef Committee Meeting ~ 7:00pm
- December 9 (Tuesday) Poultry Committee Meeting ~ 6:00pm
- December 11 (Thursday) Horse Committee Meeting ~ 6:00pm
- December 16 (Tuesday) Sheep Committee Meeting ~ 6:00pm
- December 18 (Thursday) Scramble Calf Kick-Off ~ 6:30pm
- December 25-26(Thurs/Fri) **Clay County Extension Office closed**
- January 1 (Tuesday) **Clay County Extension Office closed**
- January 2 (Friday) Clay County 4-H/FFA Market Beef weigh-in** ~ Spencer Livestock Sale Barn  
10:00-11:00am – Clay County calves not being nominated for State Fair  
11:30am-12:30pm – Iowa State Fair & Ak-Sar-Ben nominated calves
- January 2 (Friday) Record Books due from Club Leaders to Extension Office
- January 3 (Saturday) **Snow date** for Market Beef Weigh-In ~ Spencer Livestock Sale Barn  
Same time frame*
- January 6 (Tuesday) Static Committee Meeting ~ 6:00pm
- January 8 (Thursday) Shooting Sports New Member Meeting ~ 6:00pm
- January 24 (Saturday) North Central Iowa Youth Beef Conference  
Ellsworth Community College, Iowa Falls
- February 1 (Monday) Iowa's Promise Youth Grant applications are due in the State 4-H Office  
\*Christina Hixson Scholarship applications due to Iowa State University
- February 2 (Monday) \*Iowa 4-H College 2009 Scholarships applications due to State 4-H Office
- February 6-7 (Fri /Sat) 2009 State Volunteers' Retreat ~ DMACC in Ankeny, IA