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4-H is part of the Iowa State University Extension Service bringing research based education and information to the citizens of Iowa in the areas of agriculture and natural resources, families, youth, communities, and business and industry.

Dates to Remember

December 13	County Beef Weigh In (9:00 am-12:00 pm)
December 25-26	Merry Christmas! EO closed
December 29	State Beef Weigh In (9:00-12:00 pm) FC
January 1	Happy New Year! EO closed
January 2	Club Officer Training (10:00 am) EO
January 2	Beyond the County Workshop (12:00 pm) EO
January 4	Intermediate Council Meeting (1:00 -4:00 pm) LC
January 6	4-H Youth Committee (6:00 pm) EO
January 13	Shooting Sports workshop I (6:00 pm) VGC
January 24	4-H night at the Outlaws! (7:30 pm) FG
January 29	4-H New Family Meeting (6:00 pm) EO
February 10	Shooting Sports workshop II (6:00 pm) VGC
March 3	Shooting Sports workshop III (6:00 pm) VGC
March 27-29	Shooting Sport Volunteer Training Madrid
April 18	SpringFest (Share the Fun, Comm) NIACC

EO=Extension Office LC=Learning Center
FG=Fairgrounds VGC=Ventura Gun Club
FC=Franklin County

Shooting Sports

We had a great shooting sports meeting on Friday! We will be holding shooting sports classroom training this winter, and will have shotgun shooting next summer. If you attended the meeting OR enrolled in shooting sports this year, you will be receiving an informational letter from me soon. If you did not enroll in shooting sports and would like to join, call the Extension Office ASAP and get signed up. You will not be allowed to shoot at the Ventura Gun Club or at any 4-H events without enrolling in shooting sports, and completing the safety sessions.

We are in need of shooting sports volunteers in areas such as: Archery, Rifle, Shotgun, Muzzle Loader, Wildlife Skills, and also volunteer coordinators who will plan and submit paperwork for shooting sports activities. Three day training is required, which will be free of charge for volunteers, and held on **March 27-29** in Madrid Iowa. We had a lot of interest in archery, but we can't proceed with that project area until we get trained volunteers.



4-H Night at the Outlaws!

Mark your calendar for Saturday, **January 24** to cheer the North Iowa Outlaws on to a victory! Game time is 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$4 for youth and \$6 for adults, special prices for that night only! Plan to go with your club and other friends from your county ... and make new friends! 4-H'ers from Cerro Gordo, Franklin, Hancock, Winnebago, and Worth Counties will be enjoying the hockey game together. To be sure we have enough tickets, please reserve your spot by **January 8** by calling the Extension Office!



Premise ID and COOL Update

Starting in 2009, all swine exhibitors will be required to have a premise ID for the North Iowa Fair.

ALL 4-H members who raise their own or purchase ANY livestock must have a COOL affidavit on file for a minimum of two years.

Forms can be found online at <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4H/Agriculture/documents/coolinfo.pdf>

Please call the Extension Office for more information or if you need premise ID forms.



Promote 4-H with Personalized Plates

Looking for a unique and personal Christmas gift for the drivers in your life? Order a 4-H License Plate today! A total of 500 pre-paid orders are needed before Iowa DOT will develop the plate. Fees are \$35 for a numbered plate; \$60 for a personalized plate. There is a \$15 annual renewal fee for the license.

Head to: <http://www.iowa4hfoundation.org> and click on 4-H License Plate for application forms.

While the plates won't be under the tree for Christmas, how exciting to know you will be part of the first 500 4-H plates made in the state where 4-H was born!

Send your completed application, with payment, to: 4-H License Plate; Iowa 4-H Foundation; Extension 4-H Youth Bldg, ISU; Ames, Iowa 50011-3630.



Beef Weigh In Updates!

All beef and sheep to be verified for state fair will need to attend a weigh in where retinal imaging will be available. Due to a decline in beef and sheep verified for state fair in Cerro Gordo County, we did not purchase a retinal imager. On **December 29** from 9 am until noon at the Franklin County Vet clinic (1 mile west of Hampton on Highway 3), Cerro Gordo 4-Her's will be able to get beef weighed in for county and state fair, as well as any needed retinal imaging. I will be there with Cerro Gordo County ear tags and necessary paperwork, but you will not be allowed to weigh in any animals unless your 4-H enrollments are in!

If you do not plan to verify for state fair, county beef weigh in will be **December 13** from 9 am until noon at the Jay Curran farm.



4-H New Family Evening

A new 4-H Family Evening will be held on **January 29** (6:00 pm) at the Extension Office. This meeting will be open to all families, either new this year to 4-H, returning families who want to learn more about projects, or families of CloverKids. Record books, project ideas, preparing for fair, and Cerro Gordo County 4-H information are just some of the topics we will cover. So if you have questions about 4-H or just want to meet other new 4-H families, make sure to save the date. A light supper will be provided, so please call the Extension Office by **January 26**, so we can prepare accordingly.

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 4th 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 Extension Office. Registrations must include the Iowa 4-H Medical Information/Release Form. Both forms are available on line at www.extension.iastate.edu/franklin for more information contact the Franklin County Extension Office at 641-456-4811.



2009 Iowa Pork Congress

The Iowa Pork Producers Association is looking for 4-H and FFA members who are interested in participating in a Swine Judging Contest during the 2009 Iowa Pork Congress, held on **January 29**. If you are interested in participating, call the Extension Office, and we will get you signed up. Top three placing teams will receive scholarships.

Dear 4-H members, families, and leaders,

Happy Holidays, everyone!

We have a ton of activities planned to get our new 4-H year off to a great start! 4-H intermediate council, shooting sports project group, new 4-H family meeting, and scholarship/recognition assistance will all be happening in January.

Remember, keep track of all the activities you participate in during the year in your 4-H record book. This way, when you apply for scholarships or area recognition, you have all of the information at your fingertips.

If you have not re-enrolled in 4-H yet, do so right now! This will be the last newsletter that you will receive! If you have families interested in joining your clubs, have them get registered ASAP! The sooner we get members enrolled in project areas, the easier it gets to let them know about workshops, activities, and contests they may be interested in.

Alison Roe

County Youth Coordinator
aroe@iastate.edu



Club Officer Training & Beyond the County Workshop!

It may be Christmas vacation, but you don't want to miss this! On **January 2, 10am** at the Cerro Gordo County Extension Office, we will be holding Club Officer training for all new and returning club officers. There will be games and **COOL prizes** for all who attend! Afterwards, stick around for pizza and application assistance with Gail Castillo! Whether you are considering applying for State Council, State Tech Team, State Project Awards, or college scholarships, this training will provide you with some excellent tips on how to blow away the competition, all 9-12 graders are encouraged to attend!

Please call and sign up for these workshops by December 29, so we can plan accordingly.

Up to 94 SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE TO 4-H'ERS

The Iowa 4-H Foundation is pleased to announce the 2009 scholarship programs for Iowa 4-H'ers attending or planning to attend college fall 2009. More than 95 scholarships totaling over \$100,000 are available to Iowa 4-H'ers pursuing various fields of study at an Iowa Regent University, Iowa private college, or Iowa community college. Applications are available from the Extension office or on-line at: www.extension.iastate.edu/4H/grants.html Applications are due before or on **February 2, 2009** to 4-H Scholarships, Extension 4-H Youth Bldg-ISU, Ames, Iowa 50011-3630.

NE Iowa Area Recognition Interviews Set

Get more involved in 4-H and expand your horizons! If you are a ninth through twelfth grader, there are many opportunities available to you for recognition awards or to represent Iowa in upcoming conferences on the state and national levels. These include:

- National 4-H Conference (9th - 11th grade)
- National 4-H Congress (10th - 11th grade)
- State 4-H Council (10th -11th grade)
- Iowa Youth Technology Team (9th -11th grade)
- National 4-H Dairy Conference (9th -12th grade)
- State 4-H Project Awards (9th -12th grade)

Contact the Extension Office to find out more about each of these awards or trips.

If you would like to apply, a packet of information is available at the extension office. The area and state selection process for the above opportunities will involve:

- completing an application form
- gathering and putting together up to five pages of written support material or a ten minute audio or videotape (see the application for format)
- an interview at the area level