

Non-Profit Org
US Postage
PAID
Permit No. 156
Mason City IA 50401

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Cerro Gordo County
2023 S. Federal Ave.
Mason City, IA 50401-6795
Return Service Requested



IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY University Extension

Cerro Gordo County
2023 South Federal Avenue
Mason City IA 50401
641.423.0844
FAX: 641.423.2642
E-mail: xcerrogordo@iastate.edu



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

February 3	Strengthening Families Program YMCA
February 12	Shooting Sports Workshop I (6:00 pm) VGC
February 12	4-H Leader Supper/Meeting (6:00 pm) EO
February 16	4-H Youth Committee (6:00-8:00 pm) EO
February 21	Teen Council Ski Trip, Afton Alps
February 28	Clover Kids! (1:00-4:00 pm) LC
March 1	4-H Intermediate Council (1:00-3:00 pm) LC
March 3	Shooting Sports Workshop II (6:00 pm) VGC
March 12	4-H Youth Committee Training (6:00 pm) EO
March 14	Area Recognition Interviews
March 20	State Fair Intent to Participate (Swine) due
March 20-21	5 County Intermediate Lock-In, YMCA
March 27-29	Shooting Sport Volunteer Training, Madrid
April 1	County Scholarship application due
April 4	County Swine Weigh In (9:00-12:00 pm) TBA
April 18	SpringFest (Share the Fun, Comm) NIACC
April 25	State Swine Weigh In (9:00-12:00 pm) FG
May 1	County Lamb Weigh In (5:00-7:00 pm) FG

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

SHOTGUN

Due to the **awful weather conditions** in January, the Shooting Sports Workshop was cancelled. We will now only have two workshops for 4-H members who want to participate in Shotgun shooting this spring. 4-H members (4-12 grades) are **encouraged** to attend both workshops before spring shooting will begin. No pre-registration is required for the workshops.

Shotgun shooting will begin in April and last until July. The Cerro Gordo 4-H Foundation has **generously agreed** to pay a portion of the cost for shooting. More information about dates and costs for shooting will be available at the February workshop.



RIFLE, ARCHERY, MUZZLELOADER

We have several adults interested in attending shooting sports training in March for these disciplines, as well as shotgun and shooting sports coordination. If you may be interested, please call the Extension Office for information. The training will be free for volunteers, and space is limited!

SUMMER INTERN NEEDED

We will be hiring a 4-H/Youth summer intern again this year. This full-time, paid, position will last from May 26-Aug 7, 2009. The summer intern will help coordinate Clover Kids, summer Junior Master Gardener, and assist at county fair.

Preference will be given to college age applicants with an interest in working with youth. Ability to pass background checks and valid driver's license required. For more details, contact the Extension Office. Filing deadline is March 15, 2009.



SPRING FEST-UPDATE

We have had many questions about Share the Fun, communications, etc... So here is an update, and clarification. Spring Fest will be our annual communications day this year, in addition to some fun Challenge Class judging. It will be held at NIACC on April 18 from approximately 9AM-3PM. The schedule will look something like this:

AM: Educational Presentations, Readings, Extemporaneous Speaking, Working Exhibits, Challenge Class items due

LUNCH

PM: **Share the Fun**, State Fair selections announced, Challenge Class results announced.

Plan on doing communications this year! We will hold a workshop this spring for 4-Her's interested in "make and take" presentations, Readings, and Extemporaneous Speaking. Gary has been working hard getting prize sponsors for participants... so don't miss out!



Watch the March newsletter for workshop details, challenge class rules, and entry forms.

2009 AG DAY ESSAY CONTEST



4-Her's in grades 7-12 are invited to enter the 2009 Ag Day essay contest. The official topic is "Agriculture - Food, Fiber, Fuel, and More". Essays must be received by Hertz Farm Management by February 27. For complete rules, and application form, call the Extension Office.

CONNECTING THE DOTS: FROM FARM TO FORK

There is a great opportunity for you to learn about local food issues. A local food conference is going to be held in Clear Lake. The planning committee welcomes 4-Her's to attend the conference at the United Methodist Church in Clear Lake on February 7th. You can find a brochure and registration information at <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/cerrogordo/news/INCA+Conference.htm>.

Great scholarships are available for any student who wants to attend. The only thing you need to do is e-mail Dick Schinnow at schinric@hotmail.com or call 641-696-5706 to let him know you plan to attend.

The conference can provide a valuable perspective whether you already have a clear path to traditional row crop farming, wondering how you might get a foothold in agriculture or just want to get some information about local food.

FEEL LIKE SKIING?

The Teen Council has booked a group Ski Day on February 21st at Afton Alps. If your family or club would like to take advantage of the group 4-H rates that day, call the Extension Office for more information!

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

A 7-week session of Strengthening Families has been scheduled at the YMCA. For families with youth aged 10-14, Strengthening Families is a fun opportunity to learn about setting limits, building on family strengths, and having fun together. Free childcare will be provided for younger children, and supper will be furnished for all. The program will run on Tuesdays, starting February 3rd, from 5:30-8:00. Call NOW to sign up if you are interested!



COUNTY SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP

Seniors, you should have gotten a county 4-H scholarship application in the mail. If you did not receive one, call the Extension Office or download one off the website. Applications are due to the Extension Office on April 1st.

CLUB OFFICER TRAINING



13 Club Officers attended Club Officer training in January!

Dear 4-H members, families, and leaders,

I hope everyone had a great holiday! It's time to get the New Year started off right! We have a ton of 4-H events scheduled for the next few months, so make sure you get them on your calendar ASAP!

We had a great turn out at Club Officer Rraining, and quite a few new and returning officers are ready to show their clubs what they learned about making 4-H meetings fun!

We still have a quite a few 4-H members who have not returned their enrollment forms. Get those in, so we can send you information for your project areas! We can also start planning spring and summer workshops when we know how many 4-Her's have enrolled in a project area.

Alison Roe

County Youth Coordinator
aroe@iastate.edu

INTERMEDIATE COUNCIL

The 4-H Intermediate Council was **FINALLY** able to meet in January! The 13 members of the Intermediate Council are:

Cody Grant, Thornton Farmhands
Matt Sturges, Rockwell Busy Bs
Colin Sido, GH/RRR
Sally Story, Lincoln Peppy Pals
Courtney Younge, Ventura Hustlers
Rebecca Nelson, Mason City Challengers
Courtney Teeter, Bits and Spurs
Leah Bonnstetter, Ventura Hustlers
Kaylee Good, Lakes Ambitious Feeders
Hunter Uhde, Thornton Farmhands
Clayton Sampson, Mason City Challengers
Erin Patchen, Bits and Spurs
Hannah Wendel, JMG

The Intermediate Council is sponsored by a generous \$350 grant from the Teen Council!

CALLING ALL CLOVER KIDS!

Summer Clover Kids!

We are working on summer Clover Kids plans. Watch the 4-H newsletters for more details. Current Clover Kids and youth in grades K-3 are welcome to sign up for summer Clover Kids in Mason City, Thornton, Clear Lake, and Rockwell.



Get ready to sail away, Clover Kids!

On Saturday, February 28 from 1-4pm at the Learning Center, we will be holding a **FREE** Sand, Sea Monsters, and Shoreline Party. We're going to crank the heat, so wear your favorite summer outfit! Open to all K-3rd graders, call the office by Wednesday, February 25 to sign up, pre-registration is required.



Clover Kids and Fair!

With so many new Clover Kids this year, it is a good time to remind everyone that Clover Kids are able to bring projects to fair, too! A special "judge" will be at the Exhibit building to talk to Clover Kids about their projects, and give them special participation ribbons. Clover Kids also have special opportunities in pets, poultry, and rabbits. There will be an open class Bucket Bottle show at fair again this year, for ANY K-3rd grader interested in bringing a calf to fair.

4-H NIGHT AT THE OUTLAWS



Was a HUGE success! Over 120 4-H family members attended the Outlaws game. We will be doing this again next year for sure!