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The Polk County 4-H Newsletter - February 2011



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POLK COUNTY EXTENSION



Dear Polk County 4-H Families,

Hello All!

I hope that this New Year is treating you well, and that the recent cold has not been keeping you from working on your 4-H projects. It is an exciting time here at the extension office, because of all the changes that are coming for this New Year. You have already heard about our new 4-H Online Database, and how it is becoming more and more interactive. I hope that you are taking advantage of logging in to make sure that your information is up to date, and to check on your animal ID's. Hopefully I will have everyone's FSQA information transferred over for you to review as well.

There are some big changes coming for the Polk County Fairbook and Fair Entry process as well. This spring will see the unveiling of the brand new Polk County Fair Website, as well as the new and updated on-line fairbook. The costs of printing a paper version of the fairbook were becoming excessive, so the fairboard made the decision to go green, and put the fair rules, and entry materials on-line. Expect those things to become available in the next few months.

Along with the new format for the fairbook, there will be some very big changes to the exhibit building classes for the fair as well. In the past the rules for exhibiting in the building were nearly ten pages long. With new simpler classes that more closely align with the project areas we have cut nearly twenty pages out of the fairbook, and turned hundreds of classes into around forty.

I know that this year has seen a lot of changes. As always, feel free to call or e-mail me if you have any questions. Hopefully, these changes will be for the better, and will make things much simpler for everyone in the future.

Sincerely,

County Youth Coordinator

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Leader Training

Leadership Module #2 will be presented on **Monday, February 17**. An afternoon session from 1-3 pm and an evening session from 6:30-8:30 pm will be offered.

The online training for module #1 is now available and can be found at the Polk County 4-H leader Site. (www.extension.iastate.edu/polk/info/4h/leaders.htm) Simple directions for completing the trainings are available there as well, or you might consider attending the 2011 State volunteer retreat where both sessions will be offered.

Deadline to complete two credits of training is July 15, 2011. Every organizational and project leader need to complete two training credits each year.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

- "Fancy" Bread Making, Saturday, February 19th 1-3 PM
- Elements and Principles of Design, February 26th, 1-4 PM
- Bowling Ball Garden Ornaments, Saturday March 5th, 1-4 PM

To RSVP for this workshop, please contact: Diana Sosalla 957-5772 sosalla@iastate.edu

Toys for Tails

Beginning in late February, the Intermediate Council will be having a Toy for Tails drive. We will be accepting any animal supplies that we will donate to animal shelters in need. We will be supporting the following animal shelters: Animal Rescue League, the Animal Life Line of Iowa, and Raccoon Valley Animal Sanctuary and Rescue. You can bring the supplies to the Polk County Extension Office and other locations yet to be determined. You can also donate money. If you would like to donate money please send straight to the Polk County Extension Office. A complete list of acceptable supplies is available by visiting the ARL Website, (http://www.arl-iowa.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=107&Itemid=161) . With any further questions please contact Phil Heckman at 515-957-5771.



Ag Enhancement Scholarship

Polk County Farm Bureau is offering a \$2,000 Ag Enhancement Scholarship to a Polk County resident, graduating senior of an accredited Polk County high school, enrolling in a post-secondary school in the state of Iowa as a full-time undergraduate student majoring in an agricultural related field. This \$2,000 scholarship will be given in \$500 increments over four years. Scholarship applications are available from Polk County Farm Bureau, local high schools, or online at www.iowafarmbureau.com. Applications may be sent to Polk County Farm Bureau c/o Paula Hyllbak 300 SE Delaware Ave Ankeny, IA 50021. Applications must be postmarked no later than March 31st.



MISSION STATEMENT

4-H EMPOWERS YOUTH TO REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL WORKING AND LEARNING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CARING ADULTS



Weigh-In Dates

Please mark your calendars with the following weigh-in dates.

Swine – Saturday, April 2 from 8:00 –11:00 a.m. at Don Timmins' farm in Altoona.

Sheep – Saturday, May 7 from 8:00 – 11:00 a.m. at the State Fairgrounds – Sheep Barn

Remember! *The sheep department requires that all female and intact male animals being weighed-in have scrapie tags at the time of the weigh-in.*

Livestock ID's

All livestock ID's for breeding beef, horses, dairy, dairy goats, dogs, llamas, breeding sheep, and swine are due to the Polk Co. Extension Office no later than **May 16, 2011 at 5:00 PM.** This is **one day later** by virtue of the fact that the 15th falls on a Sunday this year. The ID's for market beef, market sheep and swine are brought to the office as soon as the weigh-ins are completed. Each 4-H member is responsible for turning in their ID's. Forms are available at the Extension Office or from your club leader.



NEW Studio 4-H Club is now available!

Future animators and filmmakers can build their digital storytelling skills through Studio 4-H. This new 4-H club is virtual: it exists online and is open to Iowa youth throughout the state. This is an opportunity open everyone, including current 4-H'ers, if you are interested in being a part of this virtual project club in addition to your regular club please let Phil know, as he can help get you enrolled in this new club, and get you in contact with the clubs leaders. For more information about the club itself, you can also contact Lisa Berkland at lisaberk@iastate.edu or Holly Bignall at hbignall@iastate.edu.

Shooting Sports Volunteer Training



The registration materials and information for the spring 2011 Iowa 4-H Safety and Education of Shooting Sports is now listed online on the 4-H Shooting Sports Webpage (<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4H/SESS/Documents/SESSstateLeaderTrainingSpring11.pdf>).

The dates for the training are April 1-3, 2011 and will be held at the Iowa 4-H Center. Please register your volunteers early and make sure they have been through the CPSP process before they attend the training. Last year we had over 100 participants at the spring training and are hoping for another great set of volunteer instructors to attend this year.

SENIOR Event

The Polk County Council will be hosting an event for all senior 4-H members and their friends in the surrounding counties. The event will be held February 26th 7:00 pm – March 7th 7:00 am at the Altoona Campus. The cost of the event is \$10 and all those that plan to attend must pre-register by February 15th. Come for a night full of fun, games, and new friendships! Registration forms can be found online at: www.extension.iastate.edu/polk/info/4h/SENIOR.htm or can be picked up at the Extension Office. You can contact Phil at 957-5771 or pheckman@iastate.edu with any questions.

Midnight Madness

For those of you who were wondering, Midnight Madness has not been forgotten, just pushed back... The Intermediate Council has been hard at work to put together their Toys for Tails pet supply drive, and as soon as that is in the works they will turn to planning for Midnight Madness. More information will be coming as it becomes available.

OUR VISION

A WORLD IN WHICH YOUTH AND ADULTS LEARN, GROW, AND WORK TOGETHER AS CATALYSTS FOR POSTIVE CHANGE



FSQA 2011

The 4-H Food Safety and Quality Assurance (FSQA) program will require **all beef, swine, sheep, dairy, goat, poultry, and rabbit exhibitors** (breeding and market animals) at the Polk County and Iowa State Fairs to be certified. FSQA training is an essential tool in understanding how raising 4-H projects affects the food on our plates. Knowing the importance of good recordkeeping, understanding feed and feed additives, injections, labels, withdrawals, bio-security, the vet-patient-client relationship, general care and handling, and the ethics of producing food will be covered during the certification training.

All 4-H'ers exhibiting in the above livestock areas and also currently in the 4th-6th grades **will be required** to attend FSQA training. 4-H'ers currently in the 7th-9th Grades will be eligible to take the intermediate test,

and those in 10th-12th grades will be eligible to take the senior test. These eligibilities will no longer be tied to the 4-H'ers age. This will mean that many 6th graders who were eligible to test out this year will instead need to attend one of the FSQA training sessions held this spring. Polk County will be offering FSQA Training in the evening of March 9th from 6-8 and in afternoon of June 15th from 1-3. This is a change from the previous calendar so please note the new date. These are currently the only two sessions scheduled for Polk County. Be sure to check your calendars to make sure that one of those dates will work for you and your family, or contact Phil (pheckman@iastate.edu) to make arrangements for an alternative FSQA certification site.

Block and Bridle Show

The Annual Block and Bridle Show will be held at ISU on April 15th, 16th, & 17th. Details and registration forms can be found at: <http://www.public.iastate.edu/~bbhorseshow/homepage.html>

Iowa Horse Fair

The annual Iowa Horse Fair is scheduled for April 1 – 3 at the State Fairgrounds in Des Moines at the new Jacobson Exhibition Center. Details can be found on the Iowa Horse Council website, <http://iowahorsecouncil.org/>. A new opportunity added this year is for 4-H'ers to participate in the Cowgirl Queen Contest. Information for that is on the Iowa Horse Fair link of the website above.

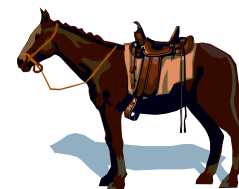
Horse Jamboree

Come and join the excitement March 26 & 27, 2011 in Ames. The Youth Horse Jamboree is an opportunity for youth to participate in a host of activities. From hippology to quiz bowl, public speaking, and horseless horse projects including photography, visual arts, woodworking, creative writing, and others.

Winners from the senior teams of Hippology, Quiz Bowl, and Public Speaking and Demonstration move on to the National Contest in Denver, Colorado!

Find out more by visiting:

www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/projects/livestock/jamboree.htm



2011 Fair Dates

The 2011 Polk County Fair is currently scheduled for July 20-25 at the Iowa State Fair Grounds. Conference Judging Day will be held on Wednesday, July 20th.

New 2011 Polk County Fair

The Polk County Fair Board has made a decision on the Fair theme for the next two years. There were many fine submissions, and the fair board chose the theme that was submitted by Ellen Sattler of the Polk Possibilities Club. This Year's fair theme will be "Pathway to Possibilities."

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.



Dog Obedience Classes Beginning Soon

The **Orientation** meeting will be at the Extension Office on March 2nd, 2010 at 6:30 PM. I would like for **ALL** persons that will be training at this meeting. Since we will be meeting in a private facility, we need to go over all of the rules. After we do this, members who have been through Dog Obedience before will be excused and we will begin our meeting for new Dog trainers.

If you have questions call Sally Martin at 967-5358 or the Extension office at 957-5771.

2011 Federal Junior Duck Stamp Contest



Each year, students from across the state of Iowa are invited to submit their original artwork depicting North American waterfowl to the Iowa Junior Duck Stamp Contest. The Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge is the receiving site for Iowa. Entries must be postmarked by March 15, 2011. A panel of five judges will select the winners in early April.

The Junior Duck Stamp Contest welcomes entries from students in kindergarten through 12th grade from public schools, private schools, and home schools, as well as on an individual basis. This program is designed to create an awareness of natural resources and wetland conservation.

Students may submit artwork from a list of permitted species found on the website. Other contest rules can be found on the website. Before judging, the entries are separated into four groups according to grade level: K-3, 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12. Three first, three second and three third place entries, along with 16 honorable mentions will be chosen from each group. Artwork entries will be judged on the basis of artistic merit and physical accuracy. The Iowa "Best of Show" is chosen, which is then submitted to the Federal Duck Stamp Office and entered into the National Junior Duck Stamp Contest held in April. A ceremony is held in May to honor the Iowa winners.

The entry form and contest information can be found at <http://www.fws.gov/juniorduck>. For questions, please contact Doreen Van Ryswyk, Iowa Junior Duck Stamp Coordinator, at (515) 994-3400 or Doreen.Vanryswyk@fws.gov. Entries must be postmarked by March 15, 2011 and mailed to: Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge; Attn: Junior Duck Stamp Coordinator; 9981 Pacific Street; P.O. Box 399; Prairie City IA 50228.

The winning entry from the national contest is used to create a National Junior Duck Stamp. The Junior Duck Stamp is available for \$5 from the U.S. Postal Service, many National Wildlife Refuges, and www.amplex.com. Proceeds from the sale of the stamps support conservation education and provide awards and scholarships for participating students.

Iowa 4-H Youth Conference 2011

It may seem early, but mark your calendars now for the 2011 Iowa 4-H Youth Conference, **June 28-30, 2011**. The Conference theme has been set: **Aim for Adventure**. More details, sample news releases, logos, etc. will be shared in the coming months. Do you have questions about the Iowa 4-H Youth Conference? Contact your state 4-H council member ambassador, Abbey Smith at abbey.smith92@gmail.com, or Brenda Allen at bsallen@iastate.edu or 515-294-1567.

4-H IS BASED ON RESEARCH



Discovering Chicago – Intermediate Trip

Make plans to join the fun on June 14 & 15 and discover some great places in the Chicago area. You will meet 4-H'ers from Dallas, Jasper Mahaska, and Marion, Polk, Poweshiek and Warren counties.

A few of the places you'll be visiting are:

- Museum of Science and Industry & IMAX show.
- Medieval Times Dinner and Tournament
- Sears Tower Sky Deck
- Lincoln Park Zoo
- Lunch at Hard Rock Café
- Navy Pier & ride the large Ferris wheel



Trip cost is \$195. Make checks payable to ISU Extension. This covers all attractions, hotel, transportation and all but 2 meals.

For registration information please visit the website at www.extension.iastate.edu/polk/info/4h/members.htm. Registration deadline is April 30. **Space is limited.**

Chaperone opportunities do exist. If interested contact Jeff Macomber at 515-993-4281 or jmacombe@iastate.edu

2011 4-H Financial Aid Deadlines

4-H member contributions to the annual 4-H'ers for 4-H Campaign along with other donor gifts to the Iowa 4-H Foundation provide the funds for 4-H financial aid programs. Here are the application deadlines for 2011:

January 10 – Transportation Assistance for 4-H Groups traveling to the Iowa 4-H Center

March 1 – Financial Assistance for individuals attending a summer camp session at the Iowa 4-H Center

April 20 – Financial Assistance for State 4-H Youth Conference and other qualified 4-H activities (excluding 4-H Center camp sessions)

May 1 – Transportation Assistance for 4-H Groups traveling to the Iowa 4-H Center

4-H Program Fee Assistance – ongoing as funds are available for families that need help paying their annual program fee(s). Guidelines and application forms are available online at: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/serve/grants.htm>. Contact Albert Grunenwald at the Iowa 4-H Foundation for more information: abgrunen@iastate.edu, 515-294-4780

2011 4-Her's for 4-H Campaign

The State 4-H Council is adopting the Foundation theme, *my 4-H. My Commitment*, for their annual statewide fundraiser. Their goal is to raise \$30,000 by asking Iowa 4-H clubs to donate \$2.50 per member. Additionally, they have put out a challenge to past state 4-H council alumni to match the goal and raise a total of \$60,000 for 4-H! The state council alumni have already raised more than \$16,000 and are competing against each other for prizes and bragging rights. You can track the competition online at: <http://www.iowa4hfoundation.org/My%204-H/index.htm>. It's not too late to sign up your State Council alumni team. Contact Albert today to find out more!

The club campaign runs from March 1 to May 15. 4-H clubs that meet the per member goal receive a special campaign certificate. Top contributing counties are recognized at the State 4-H Youth Conference in June. Complete campaign information will be available early February. (Albert Grunenwald, 515-294-4780, abgrunen@iastate.edu).

Statewide Veterinary Medicine Workshop for 7-12th Graders

February 26th, 2011. Are you in middle or high school? Are you interested in finding out about careers in veterinary medicine? Join current veterinary students for a day of hands-on activities and interactive sessions. The day will be packed full of workshops including suturing, anatomy, pathology, and food safety. Information on how to get in to veterinary school and about the day in the life of a veterinarian will be presented. This will be an excellent chance to meet a mentor in the field of veterinary medicine.

Whether you are interested in pursuing a career in a veterinary related field or just seeing what veterinary medicine has to offer, this is an event you not want to miss. The cost of the attendance will be \$10 per participant this year to cover the costs of supplies and lunch. Registration will be

limited to the first 120 participants. Get your registration in soon, as last year the event filled up well before the deadline! This event is put on with the help of the Veterinary Student Mixed Animal Recruitment Team (VSMART).

Registration will begin at 9:00am at the ISU College of Veterinary Medicine. The day will wrap up by 3:00pm. Directions and a complete schedule of activities will be mailed to participants prior to the event. Please e-mail: cblake@iastate.edu with questions. Click here for registration form:

http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/Documents/Public1_11VetMedWorkshopInfo.doc

Dates to Remember!

Workshops are being added to the calendar keep checking it.

February

- 1 State Award Applications Due
- 1 Scholarship Applications Due
- 1 Intermediate Council Meeting 7-8:30
- 1 4-H Program Advisory board 7-8:30
- 2 County Council Meeting 7:00 pm
- 16 Fair Board Meeting 7:30 pm
- 17 Spring Leader Training Meeting 1-3 or 6:30-8:30

March

- 1 Intermediate Council Meeting 7-8:30
- 1 4-H Program Advisory board 7-8:30
- 2 County Council Meeting 7:00 pm
- 9 FSQA 6:00 – 8:00 pm
- 10 New Families Workshop 6:30 pm

April

- 2 Swine Weigh-In 8:00-11:00
- 5 Intermediate Council Meeting 7-8:30
- 5 4-H Program Advisory board 7-8:30
- 6 County Council Meeting 7:00 pm
- 5 Intermediate Council Meeting 7-8:30
- 5 4-H Program Advisory board 7-8:30
- 20 Fair Board Meeting 7:30 pm
- 26 Leader Meeting 1- 3 or 6:30-8:30
- 29 **Deadline for Financial Aid from the 4-H Foundation**

May

- 3 Intermediate Council Meeting 7-8:30
- 3 4-H Program Advisory board 7-8:30
- 4 County Council Meeting 7:00 pm

May (continued)

- 7 Sheep Weigh-In
- 12 New Families Workshop 6:30 pm
- 15 Livestock ID's Due
- 15 Last Day to Enroll in 4-H
- 15 Polk County Fair King and Queen Applications Due
- 18 Fair Board Meeting 7:30 pm

June

- 4 King/Queen Candidate Interviews
- 7 Intermediate Council Meeting 7-8:30
- 8 County Council Meeting 7:00 pm
- 9 New Families Workshop 6:30 pm
- 15 FSQA 1:00 – 3:00 pm
- 15 Fair Board Meeting 7:30 pm
- TBA Intermediate Trip
- TBA Photography Camp
- 28-30 State 4-H Conference

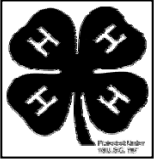
July

- 1 Polk County & Iowa State Fair Entry Packets Due to Extension Office
- 5 Intermediate Council Meeting 7-8:30
- 5 4-H Program Advisory board 7-8:30
- 6 County Council Meeting 7:00 pm
- 13 Fair Board Meeting 7:30 pm
- 16 Clothing Event (Tentative)
- 20-25 Polk County Fair (Tentative)

August

- 11 New Families Celebration 6:30 pm
- 11-21 Iowa State Fair





Polk County 4-H
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Polk Co. 4-H Club Page
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