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The Polk County 4-H Newsletter - April 2011



POLK COUNTY EXTENSION



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Dear Polk County 4-H Families,

Hello All!

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I appreciate your patience this year as we have undergone many changes. One of the long awaited updates is now available. The brand new Polk County Fair Website is now online and available by visiting: www.polkcountyfairiowa.com. Expect to see this one-stop website mentioned in many of the subsequent articles, as it is a very important website for all of our 4-H families as we turn the corner into Spring and head into Summer. There will not be hard copies of the fair book printed in the future so this site will be your source for the comprehensive E-Fair Book. Additionally, the 16 page multi-colored Fair entry packets that many of you have become so familiar with, will also not be offered in paper copies. Instead you will need to visit the Fair webpage, and download the entry packet.

One exciting change to this new entry packet is the ability for you to fill it out using your computer and then print the final result for submission to the Polk County Extension Office before July 1st. With this new option it will important to remember to sign the relevant places after printing, but it will allow us to save quite a lot of time, paper, and printing costs by only having to print those pages that you need.

As always, please feel free to call or e-mail me with any questions that you have.

Sincerely,



IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
University Extension

Feature Your 4-H Club

Have you done something awesome with your club? Would you like to feature it in the Clover Power? Email your articles and pictures to: Amy Marek at amarek@iastate.edu. One article will be featured per month. **ALL ARTICLES AND PICTURES MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE 15TH OF THE MONTH PRIOR TO THE MONTH OF PUBLICATION.**



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Recognition

Many fine Polk County 4-H'ers applied for State 4-H recognition opportunities and represented Polk County in Ames on March 26th. Matt Burket, Brett Timmins, Taylor Jacobs, Emily Freel, Hannah Thayer, Daniel Kawamura, and Taylor Hawkins all participated in State Awards Interviews on Saturday. This is nearly 4 times as many applicants as we had last year! Great job everyone and we'll look forward to hearing the results in the coming weeks.

Toys for Tails submitted by Intermediate Council

Intermediate Council will be having a Toy for Tails pet toy drive running from March 21-April 15th. 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 and the Animal Life Line of Iowa 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.



UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

- But it looked so good on her, Clothing Selection Workshop, April 2nd 8 - 10 AM
- You Made What? (Sewing Basics), Saturday, April 2nd 1-3 PM and April 9th 12:30 - 4:30 PM
- Piece It Together (Quilt), April 23rd, 9:00 - Noon
- Making It A Quilt, April 23rd 1 - 4 PM
- Sewing With Patterns, April 30th 1-4 PM and May 7th 12:30 - 4:30 PM
- Sewing - Tips & Tricks, May 7th, 9:00 - 11 AM
- Bottle Bucket Calf, May 14th 10 - 12:00 PM
- Making A Mosaic Design, May 14th 1:00 - 3:00 PM
- Playing with Cricuts, Part 2, June 4th 1 - 3:00 PM
- Leaf Casting, June 6th 6 - 8:30 PM
- Playing with Cricuts, Part 3, July 30th 1 - 3 PM

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

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.

MISSION STATEMENT

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



Llama's making a Comeback? (Submitted by Alisa Hale)



We are trying to bring the llama show back to the Polk County Fair. We need six (6) llamas to bring a judge back. At this time we have five of the six llamas needed, so if you are a llama owner, please consider this opportunity to exhibit your llama. If you would like to show a llama or have any questions please feel free to give Alisa Hale a call at 967-3951 and leave a message with your name and phone number. We need to have six llamas identified at the extension office by May 16th in order to have time to organize a

2011 Polk County Fair

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



Iowa State Fair

Iowa State Fair livestock and horticulture entries are due to the Extension office July 1. Any 4-H member that has completed 5th grade can enter. The ISF will be August 11-21, 2011.

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. *Ak-Sar-Ben verification will be done at the county weigh-in this year rather than the Iowa State Fair verification. If you plan to verify swine for Ak-Sar-Ben please call Phil at 957-5771 to let him know that you intend to verify for Ak-Sar-Ben.

State Fair Swine - Saturday, April 23 from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. at the Iowa State Fairgrounds (South side of Swine barn)

*Other times and locations are available. Please contact the Extension Office for more information.

Sheep and Market Goats – 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.

FSQA 2011

Many Polk County 4-H'ers completed FSQA training last month, but there are still a few that need to complete this requirement before they will be allowed to exhibit food animals at fairs this year. If an exhibitor was a 4th, 5th, or 6th grader this year, they **will be required** to attend a training session. The final make-up session in Polk County will be,

Wednesday, June 15th
1:00 – 3:00 pm
Polk County Extension

If you are in the 7th Grade or above you are eligible to test out. Exhibitors interested in certifying by exam, please make an appointment by calling 957-5771. **Exams need to be completed by July 1.**

If you have any questions please contact Phil at 957-5771.

OUR VISION

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



Livestock ID's

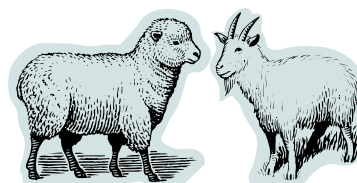
All livestock ID's for breeding beef, horses, dairy, dairy goats, dogs, llamas, breeding sheep, and swine are due to the Polk Co. Extension Office no later than May 16, 2011. The ID's for market beef, market sheep and swine are brought to the office as soon as the weigh-ins are completed. Each 4-H member is responsible for turning in their ID's. Forms are available at the Extension Office or on-line. *****NEW FOR THIS YEAR***** all commercial ewes that are to be shown at the state fair will be required to be Identified with a 4-H Tag before May 16th. We can do this for you during the weigh-in on May 1st, or you can arrange to get a tag from the Extension Office before then.



Iowa State Fair Market Broilers

Don't forget to order your Market Broilers! The Iowa State Fair Market Broiler entry form is available at the extension office or on-line at: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/projects/livestock/poultry.htm>. This form needs to be returned to the Polk County Extension Office by May 15, 2011.

National Scrapie Eradication Program for Sheep and Goats



The federal National Scrapie Eradication program to eliminate the disease scrapie from US sheep and goat flocks, began in November 2001. Because of the cost to the industry, the long time between exposure and symptoms, and the prevalence in the US, all sheep and goat producers, including 4-H'ers, must help to eradicate this disease.

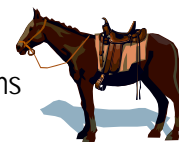
To register your flock for the scrapie program and receive your free tags, call 1-866-USDA-TAG, or 1-866-873-2824. For more information about the nationwide program, go to the USDA's Scrapie information website at: www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/animal_diseases/scrapie/



Horse Judging Team

The first meeting for the 2011 Polk County Horse Judging Team will be held here at the Extension office on Wednesday April 6th at 6:30 pm. The participation fee will be \$15 this year. Plan to attend for more information or contact Jessica Boor at (515) 708-3335 or boor.jessica@gmail.com.

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>

Youth and Adult Iowa State Fair Applications

Youth and adult Iowa State Fair staff and volunteer applications are available on the web at <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/statefair/>.

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.



National Volunteer Week

Please join us in thanking our nearly two hundred 4-H volunteers for the dedication and energy they give to our 4-H program. April 10th-16th is recognized as National Volunteer Week.

It's true, volunteers are the heart of our program. From club leaders to fair superintendents, we have new volunteers, and others with over 30 years of experience! No matter the length of commitment, each volunteer is appreciated for their gift of time and talent.

Let volunteers in your club know how important they are to you, (If you are reading this during a club meeting, this is the part where you should all stand up and clap for your club leaders.)

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-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).

Register Today For 4-H Camp!

Eight new camps and many favorites are being offered for the 2011 camp season. Discounts are available for 4-H members, siblings, and early-registrations. Camp registrations must be postmarked by April 1 to receive the early registration discount. Register on-line at www.iowa4hcamp.com or request a registration form from the camp office today. (Abbie Parker)





4-H Photo Camp

4-H Photo camp is designed to give kids, 7th through 12th grades, the opportunity to learn the basics and techniques of photography, while having a great time! Held in June at the beautiful Iowa 4-H Center near Madrid, Iowa, campers will learn from qualified professional photographers, and then get the chance to try out their new skills themselves.

The three-day event places emphasis on landscapes, close-ups, composition, and people photography, as well as painting with light, and other special effects. Both point-&-shoot and adjustable SLR camera operation are covered, as well as a complete section on computerized digital photographic enhancement. Field trips in the past have included the ISU campus, hands-on experience at the ISU Extension 4-H Computer Lab, Ledges State Park, the Iowa Arboretum, Reiman Gardens, The Bonebright Memorial Armory, and much more!

Since the first camp was held in the summer of 2005, campers have expressed enthusiasm and excitement. *"Photo camp 2007, through 2009 operated at near capacity enrollment, with camp 2010 completely full!". Iowa 4-H Photo camp is a truly unique and rewarding experience for young people, with the accent on learning and Fun! It's never too early to register. Visit the Photocamp Website for registration and contact information. <http://www.fourhphotocamp.com/>



Communication Fun Day

The Communication Event will be Thursday, July 21st at the Polk County Fair. Deadline to submit entry forms will be July 1st.

Communication Fun Day entry forms will be found in the downloadable fair entry packet (www.polkcountyfairiowa.com) on the same sheet as Share the Fun, and Clothing Event.

This is for everyone planning on giving an educational presentation, demonstrating a working exhibit, or a senior 4-H member doing extemporaneous speaking.

** Consider adapting a presentation you have done for your club. This event is a great way to share your interests and knowledge with others. Judges can select up to six educational presentations, 4 working exhibits and 2 extemporaneous speakers for State Fair, and one educational presentation and one working exhibit for Clay County Fair's District Competition.

Details about presentation lengths can be found on the information sheet accompanying the entry form on our website. The new Families Workshop on May 12th will focus on communications, and is open to all members, (not just new members.)

Copyright Form

As fair approaches, youth bringing exhibits should be thinking about copyright/trademark issues. A sample letter is located at: www.polkcountyfairiowa.com/forms&info.html for you to use to write to the copyright holder to get permission to use logos, trademarks, photographs, etc. The safest course of action is: do not copy anything unless you have permission!!



Support Polk County 4-H at the Ankeny Tractor Supply



We are encouraging clubs to take part in an exciting promotional partnership with national retailer Tractor Supply Company (TSC) and the TSC store in Ankeny. TSC is giving customers the chance to support 4-H through the sale of "Paper Clovers" for \$1 from April 15th through April 25th. All proceeds benefit 4-H, with 60% staying right here in **POLK COUNTY!**

With state budget cuts and a challenging external economic environment this support is needed now more than ever. To help with the effort we are asking for Polk County 4H kids or clubs to consider helping in this effort at the Ankeny TSC location. Here are some ideas for clubs to consider:

1. Spend a couple weekend hours serving as "baggers" at the Ankeny TSC. This requires you to wear a 4-H t-shirt and a smile!
2. Set up a "project display" inside the Ankeny TSC, visit with customers about 4-H and encourage them to buy a clover!
3. Help with a "cook-out" serving food to customers. (TSC will help with food costs; your club supplies the workers and the enthusiasm!).

If your club would like to help out you may contact TSC manager Kirk Sackett directly at 515-965-8774.

Please provide your 4-H families with information about this promotion and encourage them to send friends and family members to TSC to buy a paper clover (they can stock up on gardening or spring livestock supplies while they are at it!).

WHAT: Paper Clover Promotion

WHEN: April 15th through April 25th, 2011

WHERE: The Tractor Supply Company, 405 SE Oralabor Road, Ankeny, Iowa.



Iowa 4-H Youth Conference 2011

Registration materials for this year's Iowa 4-H Youth Conference, June 28-30 have been put up on the website: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/StateConference/>. Please note that the workshop options may be adjusted slightly as we continue to fine-tune and add options so make sure you go to the website to print off the latest copy.

As you consider attending Conference, please note the price this year is \$140/person. Registrations are due to the County Office by May 25th. There is also a late registration fee, with registrations accepted until June 10. You will also see some slight changes in the schedule. The website will continue to be updated this spring as we have more information to share with you. Please, also don't hesitate to ask if you questions. Brenda Allen: bsallen@iastate.edu or 515-294-1567



4-H IS BASED ON RESEARCH

Posters

Another communication event is creating a poster. They will be judged on Conference Judging Day (July 20) at the Polk County Fair, and the top two posters are eligible to go to the Iowa State Fair. This year's poster themes are:

- **4-H is...** (open to 4-H'ers interpretation)
- **Join 4-H**
- **Aim for adventure**
(the 2011 State 4-H Conference theme)
- **4-H, Nothing Compares** (the 2011 Iowa State Fair theme.)



For additional poster rules and regulations, refer to the online Polk County Fair Book (www.polkcountyfairiowa.com), Communication Department.

Clothing Event

Judging for the Clothing Event is scheduled for the morning of July 16th at the Extension Office. The Clothing Event consists of three divisions, Fashion Review, Clothing Selection, and the \$15 Challenge. Fashion Revue is a competition for youth who are modeling clothing they have made themselves. Clothing Selection is a competition for youth who are modeling clothing they have purchased from a store. The \$15 Challenge is a competition for youth to choose an outfit from a garage sale, consignment store, etc. with a total cost of under \$15. Additional rules and regulations are in the fair book (www.polkcountyfairiowa.com). Tips on filling out reporting forms and modeling are also available from the Extension Office. Entry forms will be in the downloadable Polk County Fair Entry Packet (www.polkcountyfairiowa.com). Reporting Forms are separate documents that participants need to bring with them on the July 16th judging day.



Dates to Remember! *(Full Calendar is available at <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/calendar/>)*

Workshops are being added to the calendar keep checking it.

April

- 2 **Swine Weigh-In 8:00-11:00**
- 2 Clothing Selection Workshop 8-10 am
- 2 Sewing Basics Workshop 1-3 pm
- 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
- 16 Quilt Making Workshop 9-Noon
- 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**
- 30 Sewing with Patterns Workshop 1-4 pm

May

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

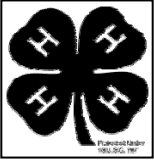
July

- 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

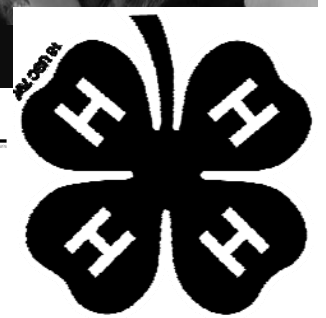




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