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The Polk County 4-H Newsletter - August 2011



POLK COUNTY EXTENSION



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Great Job Everyone!

Once again, I find myself marveling at the cooperation and spirit of community that the Polk County Fair brings to our 4-H'ers and their families. The number of moving parts that a county fair the size of ours has is incredible and when you think that the entire fair is organized by an all volunteer fairboard it is even that much more amazing. If you see a fairboard member in your community or on the street please don't forget to thank them. I am also happy to assist any 4-Her or club that would like to send a thank you note to any or all of the fairboard members or other volunteers who assisted at the fair.

I would also like to remind all of the 4-H'ers that much of what they were allowed to experience at this year's fair was due in many cases to the hard work, dedication and support of your parents. If you have a parent, (and I suspect that you all do,) it is never a bad time to remember to thank them for their help.

Lastly, I wanted to let all of you know how proud I am of the 4-Her's, volunteers, and clubs that I serve here in Polk County. Every day of the fair, I found myself impressed by the creativity, enthusiasm, and dedication you all show for our 4-H program. It is truly a joy to get to help make the best better!

Enjoy the rest of your summer.

Sincerely,

County Youth Coordinator
IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
University Extension

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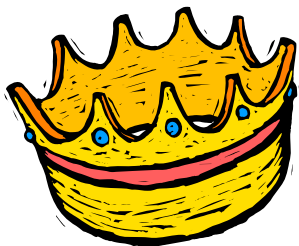


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Polk County Fair King and Queen



The 2011 Polk County Fair King and Queen are Colt Churchill of the Runnells Rockets and Julia Griffieon of The Ankeny 4-H Club. Julia is the daughter of Craig and LaVon Griffieon of Ankeny. Colt is the son of Brandon and Andrea Churchill of Altoona. Congratulations to both Colt and Julia!

Polk County Fair Court

The Polk County Fair Queen's Court included: Taylor Jacobs of Runnells, Brett Timmins of Altoona, Anna Washington of Elkhart, and M'lynn Crawford of Bondurant, and. The Polk County Fair King's Court included: Grant Warner of Altoona, Matt Curry of Runnells, Tyler Curry of Altoona, and Collin Cory of Altoona. Congratulations to all of the princes and princesses!!

Recognition

We would like to thank the Polk County Fair Board members, superintendents, assistants, parents and 4-H members who helped before, during and after the Polk County Fair. It takes a lot of volunteers to make the fair a big success! Thank you to all of the building hosts and barn night watches who did their part keeping our fair safe, clean, and fun for everyone!



The 2011 BBQ was a great event thanks to the leadership of Arlette Hollister, the BBQ Committee, and the 4-H Program Advisory Board. Thanks to Polk County Farm Bureau for sponsoring the meal. The group worked extremely hard and did a great job.

Also, thank you for donating to the BBQ. Donations are given to the 4-H Program Advisory Board to provide scholarships and awards for the 4-H County Recognition Program. Over \$2,000 was donated that will go directly to 4-H youth.

A Note from the Rowe Family

Words could never express the appreciation we have for the Altoona Hustling Herdsmen 4-H club! This past Polk County Fair will be a memory for Josh that he will hold in his heart forever! A special thank you to Matt DeDecker and John Adkins as these two young men knew how important it was for Josh to show his calf. They stepped up to the plate and made sure that Josh and his calf went in the "show ring" – this would not have happened without Matt and John standing by Josh's side!

Also a big thank you to all of the 4-H Clubs in Polk County and those who take their time to volunteer for the Polk County Fair as your kindness and generosity during Josh's battle with Leukemia will never be forgotten!

Josh, Mari and Joe Rowe

MISSION STATEMENT

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



Iowa State Fair Reminders

The Iowa State Fair will be August 11-21, 2011. State Fair exhibitors should have received information from the State 4-H Office and/or Polk County Extension Office. Please remember to pick up your Iowa State Fair exhibits at the Polk County Extension Office after noon on August 22nd.

Ak-Sar-Ben

The 84rd Annual Ak-Sar-Ben 4-H Livestock Exposition will take place September 22 – September 25, 2011 at the Qwest Center in Omaha, Nebraska. **Entries are due to the Polk Co Extension Office by August 12.** A reminder that all market animals must have gone through the verification process to be eligible to exhibit at Ak-Sar-Ben.

Record Keeping and Award Applications

Record keeping is an important part of 4-H. We have already had a few questions about finishing up record books for the 2010-2011 4-H Year. There are record keeping forms available at the extension office or online at <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/polk/info/4h/records.htm>. Award applications can be found on the website at <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/polk/info/4h/recognition.htm>. Having complete records will be very helpful in filling out applications for county and state awards.

County and Intermediate Council Applications due September 1st!

Any 4-H members who will be in the 7-8 grades are eligible to apply for the Intermediate Council. 4-H'ers in 9-12 grades are eligible to apply for County Council. Applications for both councils are available online at <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/polk/info/4h/members.htm>. Copies are also available at the Polk County Extension Office. Applications for both councils are due Sept 1st. We will not be requiring applicants to participate in an interview this year. Instead as part of the application, applicants will need to provide a letter of recommendation from their 4-H Club Leader. Standard forms will be available for leaders to use, or they can write their own letters. Leaders will be allowed more than one recommendation per club. Members on these councils will be required to remain members in good standing (as determined by their club leaders,) in order to remain on their respective councils.

OUR VISION

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



Polk County Award Interviews

Applications for the 4-H Life Skills Award for senior 4-H members, who graduated in 2010, are due to the extension office no later than **5:00 p.m. September 1, 2011**.

All other applications are due to the Polk Co. Extension Office no later than **12:00 Noon October 3, 2010**.

Applicants for awards will participate in an interview appropriate for their grade level. You must be available at the scheduled interview times:

Life Skills interview – by appointment

All other interviews will take place in the evenings of October 10th and October 13th.

All 4-H members may apply for up to four project awards. Applications will be available shortly at the extension office or online at: www.extension.iastate.edu/polk/info/4h/recognition.htm.

The Annual County Awards Event will be November 13th at 2:00.

Leader Training

The next leader training will be Thursday September 15th at 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at the Polk County Extension Office. This training will be occurring a little earlier than usual for us, but it is **VERY** important that leaders attend if able. In this training we will be training for the new On-Line enrollment system for 4-H. Please plan to attend this meeting, as it will make your fall recruitment and enrollment efforts much easier.

Polk County Fair Press Release

The Polk County Fair Press release has been compiled and sent out to media outlets across the county. A special thanks goes out to the department superintendants for submitting their media reports so quickly and to Amy Marek for compiling the lists into its final 16 page entirety before press deadlines. We did our best to check for errors, and hopefully we were successful in catching them all. You will find a copy of the results at www.polkcountyfairiowa.com/results.html. Feel free to forward it on to any additional media outlets that you think may be interested.



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.



MAKE YOUR RECORDKEEPING HIT THE TOP TEN!



This year when you are completing your recordkeeping, make it the best ever and shoot for the top ten. Each club will be able to submit one junior, one intermediate, and one senior recordkeeping to the extension office by October 3rd for consideration. The leaders of each club should submit the recordkeeping they feel best represents their club.

The top ten junior, intermediate, and senior recordkeeping for all of Polk County will be chosen and awarded at the Family Fun Celebration in November. Recordkeeping will be returned to the 4-Her.

Put extra effort into your recordkeeping this year!

Polk County Fair Lost and Found

There were some serving items left after the conference judging day luncheon that have found their way to the Extension office in the aftermath of this year's fair. Additionally there are a few exhibits that were left behind. If you have lost them, please let me know at 957-5771 or pheckman@iastate.edu.

New Families Workshop

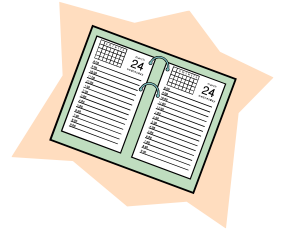
There will be no August "New" Families workshop. We would like this year's new members to come to the 4-H Find-Out to tell about their first year experiences.

4-H IS BASED ON RESEARCH

Deadlines and the 4-H Calendar for 2011-2012



We know that it is sometimes hard to remember all the dates and times in the 4-H year, so we are hoping to make things easier for our 4-Hers this year. Work has already been done on setting the 4-H calendar for this next year, and we would like for you to know what to expect as soon as is possible. The dates to remember section at the end of the monthly newsletter will include the most current due dates and deadlines for 2011-2012. Please read this calendar closely as there are some changes from previous years.



Dates to Remember

August

12 AkSarBen Entries Due to the Extension Office

11-21 Iowa State Fair

September

1 4-H Life Skills Awards Applications Due

1 County Council & Intermediate Council Applications Due

5 Office Closed

6 4-H Program Advisory Board 7-8:30 pm

6 Intermediate Council Orientation Meeting 7-8:30 pm

7 County Council Orientation Meeting 7-8:30 pm

8 4-H Find Out Night 6:30 PM

15 Fall Leader Training 4-H On-Line Training 6:30-8:30 pm

16 4-H enrollment Begins

21 Fairboard Meeting 7:30 pm

22-25 Ak-Sar-Ben

October

3 County Award Applications Due

2-8 National 4-H Week

4 Intermediate Council Meeting 7-8:30 pm

4 4-H Program Advisory Board 7-8:30 pm

6 County Council Meeting 7-8:30 pm

6 4-H Find Out Night 6:30 pm

10 County Awards Interviews 5:00-9:00 pm

13 County Awards Interviews 5:00-9:00 pm

19 Annual Fair Board Meeting 7:00 pm

22 Make a Difference Day at the State 4-H Camp (Tentative)

November

1 Intermediate Council Meeting 7-8:30 pm

1 4-H Program Advisory Board 7-8:30 pm

2 County Council Meeting 7:00 pm

10 Officer Training 6:30 pm

13 County Awards Ceremony 2:00 pm – Polk County Extension Office

16 Fair Board Meeting 7:30 pm

24-25 Office Closed

December

6 Intermediate Council Meeting 7-8:30 pm

6 4-H Program Advisory Board 7-8:30 pm

7 County Council Meeting 7:00 pm

21 Fair Board Meeting 7:30 pm

17 **Beef Weigh-In - 8:00 am – 11:00 am Iowa State Fairgrounds Cattle Barn**

23-26 Office Closed

January

2 Office Closed

3 Intermediate Council Meeting 7-8:30 pm

3 4-H Program Advisory Board 7-8:30 pm

4 County Council Meeting 7:00 pm

12 New Families Workshop 6:30 pm

16 Office Closed

18 Fair Board Meeting 7:30 pm

February

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

March

- 1 **Deadline for Financial Aid for Camp
from the 4-H Foundation**
- 6 Intermediate Council Meeting 7-8:30 pm
- 6 4-H Program Advisory Board 7-8:30 pm
- 7 County Council Meeting 7:00 pm
- 8 New Families Workshop 6:30 pm
- 12 FSQA 6:00 – 8:00 pm
- 15 FSQA 6:00 – 8:00 pm

April

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

May

- 1 Intermediate Council Meeting 7-8:30 pm
- 1 4-H Program Advisory Board 7-8:30 pm
- 2 County Council Meeting 7:00 pm
- 5 Sheep Weigh-In
- 10 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**
- 16 Fair Board Meeting 7:30 pm

June

- 2 King/Queen Candidate Interviews
- 5 Intermediate Council Meeting 7-8:30 pm
- 5 Program Advisory Board 7-8:30 pm
- 6 County Council Meeting 7:00 pm
- 14 New Families Workshop 6:30 pm
- 20 Fair Board Meeting 7:30 pm
- TBA Intermediate Trip
- TBA Photography Camp
- 26-28 State 4-H Conference

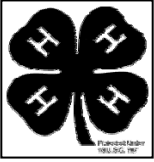
July

- 1 **Polk County & Iowa State Fair Entry
Packets Due to Extension Office**
- 3 Intermediate Council Meeting 7-8:30 pm
- 3 4-H Program Advisory Board 7-8:30 pm
- 4 Office Closed
- 5 County Council Meeting 7:00 pm
- 11 Fair Board Meeting 7:30 pm
- 14 Clothing Event (Tentative)
- 18-23 Polk County Fair (Tentative)

August

- 12-22 Iowa State Fair

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