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The Polk County 4-H Newsletter - September 2011



POLK COUNTY EXTENSION



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Welcome to a New Year!

We're embarking into a brave new world, and I wanted to take a moment to introduce you to a big change in the 4-H world. 4-H Online (<http://iowa.4honline.com>). Starting this year we will start to do part of the enrollment process by allowing you access to your own 4-H record. That means that besides re-enrolling online, you'll be able to enter your non-weigh in livestock ID's, check on, (and print) your own FSQA record. See what awards you've received over the years, and many many other functions. Polk County is a pilot county for this transition, and I know that our 4-H families are ready and more than capable of taking on this new challenge. While this process and system are new to you families, it is important to note that your family has been entered into the 4-H online database from your paper enrollments last year. **You do not need to create a new record.** We'll coach you through the process of getting a temporary password for your existing 4-H Online account.

Enrollment for the new year officially starts on September 16th so expect an e-mail from 4-H online after that date with simple directions on how to re-enroll your 4-H'ers and how to add any new members to your family. We'll also be hosting a 4-H online training for your club leaders, so they will be a great resource for you as we embark on this process.

I am excited about all the new functions that you as families and members will be able to use in the new system, and as always feel free to call or e-mail me if you have any questions.

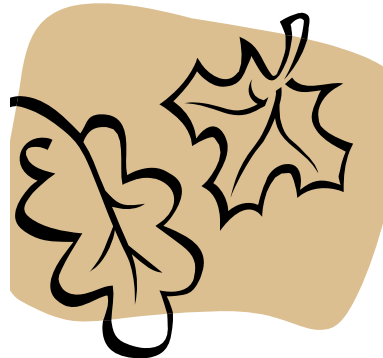
Sincerely,

Phil Heckman

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
University Extension

WHAT'S INSIDE:

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Recognition

Congratulations to the following 4-H'ers for their special achievements at the Iowa State Fair 4-H Shows—

Cara Maak, 2011 Visual Arts Judges Choice Winner
Aubrey Pasker, 2011 Visual Arts Judges Choice Winner
Alyssa Pinkley, Top 10% Award in Fashion Review

Emily Freel, Rabbits - Best Best of Breed (2)
Mike Hughes, Rabbits – Best of Variety, Best Opposite of Breed
Joseph Kacmarynski, Rabbits – Best Opposite of Variety
Heather Kacmarynski, Rabbits – Best Opposite of Variety

Andi Wolfe, Rabbits – Best Opposite of Variety
Allison Vincent, Meat Goat – **Jr. Division** Res. Champion Breeding Doe
Amber Hammes, Horse - Champion Sr. Western Pleasure
Jessica Taylor, Horse – Champion Trail, Res. Champion Sr. Western Horsemanship
Sophie Churchill, Dairy Goats – Jr. Champion Nubian
Haley Konrad, Dairy Goat – Sr. Res. Chapiion Nubian, Res. Grand Champion Nubian

Purple ribbons were awarded in various divisions to: Grant Alleman, Anna Feldstein, Kristy Adey, Jessica Taylor , Allison Vincent, Morgan Green, MiKayla Pfab, Victoria Purcell, Emily Freel, Mike Hughes, Joseph Kacmarynski, Heather Kacmarynski, Andi Wolfe, Ty Ubben, Amber Hammes, and Harriet Hubbell.

Additionally, 3 of the 4 awards given in the State “Stitch This,” completion were awarded to Polk County Teams. The team FashionEASTas received the second place Silver Spool Award. Members are Brenda Becam, Ona Luong, Choua Thao and Dacy Nguyen from Polk County. Each member received a glass trophy and a \$50 Blonde Genius gift certificate.

Attraente Unicornio received the third top prize, the Artistry Award, for showing the most creativity with their design, approach or construction techniques. Team members Jose Lupercio, Stephanie Gabriel, Nyacudaer Thijn Yor and Heather Reimers, all from Polk County, received a glass trophy as well as the People’s Choice Award.

The Synergy Award for most effective teamwork and communication went to Sequin Sisters — Tayler Veldhuizen, Lydia Sharp, Kenley Rogers and Lauren Schossow, all from Polk County. Each member received a glass trophy.

Polk County represented itself at the Bratney Robotics Challenge as well, The St Augusteen Toxic Teens won the Junk Drawer Challenge Award and the Innovative Programming Award, and our own Polk County Volunter Ulrike Grimaldi was awarded the Golden Clover Volunteer Award for exemplary leadership of the LEGO Medics team.



IowaStateFair

**NOTHING
COMPARES**



MISSION STATEMENT

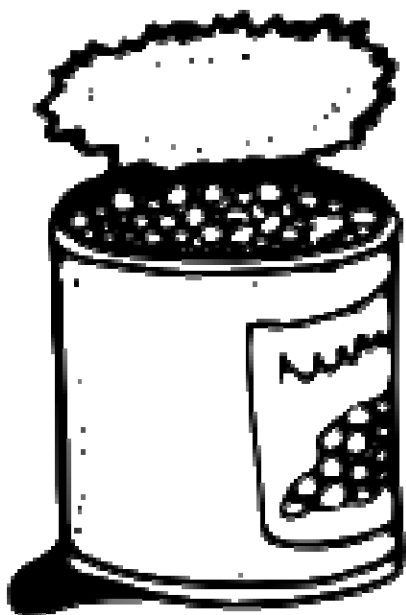
4-H EMPOWERS YOUTH TO REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL WORKING
AND LEARNING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CARING ADULTS



Polk County Hall of Fame Inductee

Norm and Sherry Veldhuizen of Pleasant Hill were inducted into the 2011 Iowa 4-H Hall of Fame during a ceremony at the 4-H Exhibits Building at the Iowa State Fair on Sunday, Aug. 21. Norman and Sherry Veldhuizen have been proud supporters and volunteers in Iowa 4-H since before their children were able to attend school. Norman was a 4-H leader in Wapello County for two years from 1974 through 1976. After that the family moved to Polk County and when their oldest son joined 4-H, Norman joined along with him. In the 30 years since, he has served as an organizational leader as well as a project leader watching four sons enrich their lives through 4-H. Sherry made her membership official in 1995 when she joined Norman as his assistant organizational leader as well as a project leader. Sherry has helped teach life skills to many children in the years since as she lends her knowledge to young and excited 4-Hers.

When Polk County Fair time rolls around in July, Norman takes on the role of Herdsmanship Superintendent and Livestock Judging Superintendent. Norman is always active during the swine show at the county fair, assisting in making sure the exhibitor has the right animal up for the right class in the show ring. Sherry keeps busy in the exhibit building; serving as a department superintendent and making sure exhibitors are in the right place and get in to visit with a conference judge. Norman is currently serving his third term on the Polk County Fair Board to ensure a quality 4-H and FFA experience for hundreds of members for years to come.



“Can” We Make a Difference? ... Of Course We “Can!”

National Make a Difference Day is October 22nd this year, and once again we will use this opportunity to continue to perform an annual, county-wide, community service project. Continuing the tradition, we’ll be doing our 3rd annual 4-H food drive to show just how big of a difference we can make. Last year we were able to donate more than 500 non perishable food items to local DMARC food pantries, which was one of the largest single donations that they saw all year. We are asking that 4-H clubs find a way to try and collect as many cans of food to donate to Polk County Food Shelters as we “can” in advance of the Thanksgiving Season. Members “can” collect at school, ask their neighbors, or partner with a local grocery store. We are looking for however you and your club feel that you “can” make the biggest difference. We will be collecting donations at the extension office, and making a display of just how big a difference Polk County 4-H “can” make!

OUR VISION

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



Recruitment Efforts for This Year

4-H recruitment for the 2010-2011 year is already in full swing thanks to the help of many, many volunteers. Polk County 4-H has already been represented at several different locations and events in the county, and we are just getting warmed up. We have made up several "recruitment kits," with various brochures, business cards, and things to give away, and we would be happy to assist any club or family that would like to recruit at their school or other appropriate event. If you know of an event in your area that you think would be a good opportunity for us to grow 4-H, just contact Diana at Sosalla@iastate.edu or 515-957-5772 to check out some recruitment materials.



National 4-H Week

National 4-H Week is October 2-8, 2011. Your 4-H club may want to celebrate it by volunteering to speak at a business or community service organization about the 4-H program and what you have learned. Write a feature story about your club for the local newspaper, put up a 4-H display in a business, library, or school window, or invite prospective members to your next 4-H meeting. Consider helping with the County-Wide Can

Record Keeping

Record keeping is an important part of 4-H. There are forms available at the Extension Office. You may also use the computer, a portfolio, a video, or whatever format you are most comfortable with for keeping your 4-H records. The records you keep now will help you when you apply for county, area or state 4-H awards as well as college scholarships when you are a senior in high school.

Record keeping forms may be downloaded at: www.extension.iastate.edu/4H/memberresources.html

How do you get started?

Gather all of your 4-H project materials, exhibit folders, note cards from a fair exhibit, pictures, clippings, feed records, expense records, etc.

Decide which projects you want to complete recordkeeping for. Remember you do not have to keep records on every project you signed up for. When selecting the projects you want to complete for recordkeeping, consider which is your favorite project(s). Are there one or two projects you are really interested in?

When you have decided which project(s) you are going to keep records on, you can determine which type of recordkeeping system you are going to use: the basic, experienced, or advanced project forms, portfolio, video or cassette, design your own system on the computer, etc. You can also download the forms from the web.

You can now get started completing your forms. Besides the project record, you may complete the 3-page yearly summary telling about the 4-H events you have attended, recognition you have received, presentations you have given, as well as activities you have been involved in at school and in the community. You may also list all other project areas not in your records. You may include information from the fair, pictures, or newspaper articles to tell your experience.

Once you have completed the recordkeeping project forms, you can put it all together in a three-ring notebook, a folder, portfolio, video, cassette, or save it on a computer disc. If you want a Polk County 4-H recordkeeping cover for your notebook, they are available at the Extension Office for no charge.



Record Keeping and Award Applications

Record keeping is an important part of 4-H. 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/awards.htm>. Having complete records will be very helpful in filling out applications for county and state awards.



Make your Record Keeping Hit the Top 10

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.

County Awards

County award application forms are www.extension.iastate.edu/polk/info/4h/recognition.htm. There's also a link to the Recognition and Awards Instructions. The booklet explains the county awards available to Polk County 4-H members. The awards are based on the 4-H year from September 15, 2010 to September 14, 2011. All applicants will participate in an interview appropriate for their grade level.

All applications are due to the Extension Office by Noon on October 3. Junior, Intermediate, and Senior interviews are scheduled for October 10th and October 13th starting at 5:00 p.m. at the Polk County Extension Office.

* Members can apply for up to four project awards. Project award areas include: Aerospace, Agriculture, Automotive, Beef, Bicycle, Camping, Cat, Child Development, Citizenship, Clothing, Communication, Computer, Consumer Management, Crops, Dairy, Dog, Electricity, Engine, Tractor & Field, Entomology, Environment, Fashion Revue, Fishing, Food & Nutrition, Forestry, Goat, Health, Home Improvement, Horse, Horticulture, Leadership, Music, Personal Development, Pets, Photography, Poultry, Rabbit, Recreation, Safety, Science & Engineering, Self-Determined, Sheep, Shooting Sports, Swine, Veterinary Science, Visual Arts, Welding, Wildlife, and Woodworking

* All awards will be presented at the annual Awards Ceremony November 13th at 2:00 p.m. available at the Extension Office or can be downloaded from the awards website at: www.extension.iastate.edu/polk/info/4h/recognition.htm

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.



Polk County Award Interviews

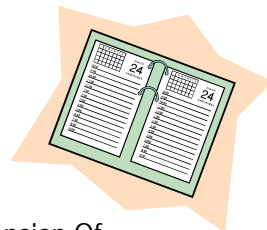
All award applications are due to the Polk Co. Extension Office no later than **12:00 Noon October 3, 2011**

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

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

Leader Training

The next leader training will be Thursday September 15th at 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at the Polk County Extension Office. There is no afternoon session planned for this training, but if you are unable to attend that evening, we'll happily schedule a time to train you. 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.



Officer Training

The Officer Training workshop will be held Wednesday, November 10 from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at the Polk County Extension Office.

The workshop will include an overview of parliamentary procedure, working together as a group, and practicing the skills of their office. County Council will lead the workshop.

We will also be providing free pizza for all that attend!! You may register by calling Phil at 957-5771.

Make a Difference Day

Make a Difference Day 2011
Saturday, October 8
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Iowa 4-H Center near Madrid, Iowa

Want to spend some citizenship time with Mother Nature? Come for a day of volunteering to enhance the **Iowa 4-H Camping Center** near Madrid. 4-H clubs, families, friends, staff . . . everyone is invited to the camp on **Saturday, October 8 from 9:00-3:00** (or whatever part of the day you can volunteer).



Wear your grubby clothes and help make a difference by painting, staining buildings, chipping trails, taking down dead trees, stacking fire wood, taking inventory, and general cleaning tasks. Free morning refreshments for all workers and a day of fun and nature await you! If you want to eat lunch at the camp bring a non-perishable sack lunch and beverage. Also extra tools are helpful (gloves, rakes, buckets, old rags, chainsaws, gardening tools, shop vacs, step ladders, wheel barrows, etc.) to keep all hands busy. Please label your tools. **Call 515-795-3338 to let us know you are going.** We want to have enough morning refreshments for all our hard workers!

National Youth Science Day Experiment

We are planning a science project workshop on Saturday October 1st from 10-Noon, in conjunction with National Youth Science Day. This year's experiment is on the power of wind. Interested 4-Her's will be able to experiment with small wind power generators to determine the best design for producing maximum energy. We will need to purchase supplies for the hands on learning to occur, so we'll need interested 4-H'ers to RSVP with Phil (pheckman@iastate.edu 957-5771,) by September 19th.



Dates to Remember

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

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

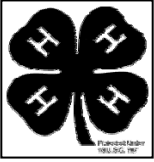
December

- 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

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