



# Clover Power

The 4-H Newsletter - January 2008

*Pledging our heads, hearts, hands and health.*

ISU Extension, Polk County 5201 NE 14th St, Ste A, Des Moines, IA 50313  
(515)263-2660 Fax (515)263-2704 [www.extension.iastate.edu/polk](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/polk)

## New Year, New Beginnings

If you haven't noticed, there have been a lot of changes in the past month at the Extension Office. In October, Katie Hyde became Polk County's new CYC, however, in mid-December Katie accepted a job to work for the State of Iowa. We wish her the best and look forward to Katie becoming a great Polk County 4-H volunteer. Although our 4-H department is amidst staff changes, I assure you I am available to help throughout the transition so please don't hesitate to call with questions. I look forward to introducing two new staff members to you before the end of the month.

This is a great time of year to reflect on 4-H goals and assess how your projects are coming along. The 2008 Polk County Fair is now six months away. Senior members may also be interested in applying for area and state 4-H awards, most opportunities have application deadlines of February 1.

Best wishes in this new year,

Andrea R. Nelson  
Office Manager

## Recognition

We would like to thank everyone who helped make the beef weigh-in run smoothly. Thanks to Daren Laffey, Ryan Laffey, Jim Nelson, Judy Nelson, Pat Printy, Mike Cory, Trent Steinhart, Doug Eshelman, Larry Rogers, and Katie Hyde for taking time to help 4-H members get their calves weighed in. A total of 161 calves were weighed and ear tagged, 24 of which were verified for State Fair and Ak-Sar-Ben.

## Area Awards

There are many opportunities for senior 4-H'ers to gain recognition on the area and state levels. It is time to start planning to apply for area awards.

Area and state selection process for these opportunities will involve completing an application form by assembling up to five pages of written support material and an interview with a three judge panel. You will have flexibility in creating your application materials and gain experience in interviewing and organizing a portfolio that will help prepare you for college and job searches. **Applications are due February 1.** Everyone that applies will have an interview scheduled for March 1 (snow date scheduled for March 8). For more information, contact Andrea at 261-4201 or come to the January 10 workshop for tips and best practices on writing award applications. Application forms are available at the Polk County Extension Office, or at our website:

[www.extension.iastate.edu/polk/info/4h/club.htm](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/polk/info/4h/club.htm)

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY  
University Extension

Extension programs are available to all without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, or disability.

Exciting opportunities are available for 4-H members through area selection of nominees for:

**State 4-H Council:** Be an ambassador for the state 4-H program. 40 youth from across the state provide input on 4-H program issues, help plan and execute state events, practice leadership, citizenship, and communication skills. Members serve on the council from June 2008 – June 2009. Must be in grades 10-11 to apply.

**Project Awards:** Recognition for youth who have excelled in projects by participating, learning, and evaluating 4-H experiences. Project awards are selected from the area level to advance to the state level. State project award winners receive a \$100 US Savings Bond. Must be in grades 9-12 to apply.

**Iowa Youth Technology Team:** The team will be made up of teens from around the state who are interested in information technology. Team members will learn marketable technology skills, develop a community service project using technology, experience cutting-edge technology, and work with experts from around the state and country. Members serve on the team from June 2008 – June 2009. Must be in grades 9-11 to apply.

**National 4-H Conference:** Iowa sends 4 youth and 2 adults to the National 4-H Conference in March 2009 at the National 4-H Center in Chevy Chase, Maryland. One of the main objectives is to help youth and adults develop their maximum potential by providing opportunities to participate actively in 4-H program development at the national level. Must be in grades 9 -11 to apply.

**National 4-H Congress:** Iowa sends 22-25 youth and 2 adults and will be held in November 2008 in Atlanta, Georgia. Youth will identify issues of concern for the Congress through one-on-one interview with community leaders and youth. Other educational experiences will include conflict resolution training, leadership development training, and cultural awareness workshops. Recreational, social and cultural activities are vital components of the program. Must be in grades 10-11 to apply.



## Iowa 4-H Foundation Scholarships

All senior 4-H members who plan to attend college in the fall 2008 should check out the list of 4-H scholarships available at: [www.extension.iastate.edu/4H/grants.html](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4H/grants.html). You can also pick up information at the Extension Office. Applications, transmittal form, transcript(s)/grade report, and letters of recommendation must be RECEIVED by **February 1**.

New for 2008, the **Cheryl and David Pence 4-H Scholarship** will be awarded to two Polk County 4-H'ers. Each scholarship is worth \$500. One scholarship will be awarded to a graduating senior member that has participated in the communication project. Another scholarship will be awarded to a graduating senior member that has participated in the visual art project. The Pence Scholarship application is required through the Iowa 4-H Foundation 4-H Scholarship process as listed above and is due **February 1**.

*Please note, the Pence Scholarship is so new, it did not make it to printing in time to be included with the Foundation's scholarship listing. Applicants should be sure to handwrite on the transmittal form that they are applying for this specific opportunity along with any other Foundation scholarships.*

## 2008 Scholarship Info!

A listing of other scholarships targeted for 4-H'ers, several with an agricultural emphasis can be found at: [www.extension.iastate.edu/4H/Documents/Schol3336OtherScholPrograms.pdf](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4H/Documents/Schol3336OtherScholPrograms.pdf)

Eligibility requirements and scholarship websites with complete application instructions with specific deadlines are published on the above mentioned website. Some of the most popular scholarships are Alpha Gamma Rho, Christina Hixson, Herbert Hoover, Iowa Farm Bureau, Iowa State Fair, Iowa State University, University of Iowa, University of and Northern Iowa scholarships.

## VEISHEA Scholarships

VEISHEA 2008 is delighted to award six Leadership Scholarships and two Community Involvement Scholarships in the amount of \$500 each to high school seniors entering Iowa State in the fall of 2008.

The selected applicants will attend VEISHEA Scholars weekend from April 18-20, 2008 to celebrate their accomplishments and experience Iowa State. During that weekend, scholars will also have the opportunity to meet with many of the university's current leaders and form lasting friendships.

Postmark deadline is February 4. More information and applications may be found online at [www.veishea.iastate.edu](http://www.veishea.iastate.edu).

## Conservation District Scholarship and Poster Contest

### Poster Contest

Conservation Districts of Iowa and Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company are co-sponsoring the 2008 Soil & Water Conservation District Poster contest. The contest is open to all students, grades Kindergarten to 12<sup>th</sup>. Cash prizes will be offered to Regional and State winners. Poster information, rules and application form can be found at [www.cdiowa.org/education.html](http://www.cdiowa.org/education.html).

### College Scholarship

Conservation District of Iowa (CDI) is sponsoring a scholarship for Iowa high school seniors who are pursuing college level programs of study in any field of agriculture or natural resources. Graduating seniors are urged to access the application and rules at [www.cdiowa.org/awards.html](http://www.cdiowa.org/awards.html). Application deadline is February 29, 2008.

Poster and scholarship questions should be directed to the Polk SWCD at 515-964-1883 ext. 3 or by stopping by the office at 1513 North Ankeny Blvd. Suite 3, Ankeny, Iowa.

## 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 Extension, Polk County Farm Bureau and local high schools. Deadline is March 31, 2008.

## Award and Scholarship Workshop

For those interested in applying for area/state awards and would like information about the different opportunities, advice on writing their application and tips on how to interview in front of a panel of judges, there will be a workshop held on Thursday, January 10 at 7:00 p.m to help members through this process. This workshop will also help graduating seniors that want to apply for 4-H scholarships (also due February 1) with filling out forms correctly. Andrea Nelson will lead the workshop. It would be a good idea for members to look at the application forms before coming to the workshop and start on the written portion.

## Iowa Egg Council Cooking Contest

The Iowa Egg Council is looking for youth and adult entrants for their annual Cooking Contest. It is a fun opportunity to try "egg-citing" new egg recipes and to share your culinary skills. More information and application form, go to [www.iowaegg.org](http://www.iowaegg.org), or call the Iowa Egg Council at 1-877-IOWA-EGG.



## Iowa's Promise Youth Grants

Do you know a group of young people with a wonderful idea for community service? Are they looking for a funding source? If so, read on!

"Iowa's Promise Youth" grants up to \$250 are available from the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service in partnership with Iowa State University Extension 4-H Youth Development.

Criteria for funding include involving two or more local groups (one must be a youth group such as a 4-H club, church group or school group) in a community service or community improvement project.

For more information go to: [www.iowaspromise.org/](http://www.iowaspromise.org/) or contact Sue Bogue at 515-294-1533. **Applications are due February 1.**

## State Leader's Retreat

Capture the Spirit is the theme for the 2008 State Volunteer Retreat scheduled for Friday, February 8, and Saturday, February 9, centrally located at the DMACC facility in Newton.

The retreat, supported in part by Monsanto and National 4-H Council, will bring 4-H volunteers, staff, parents, and intermediate and senior 4-H members together to network and learn about innovative programs that will help bring fresh perspectives and activities to Iowa 4-H programs. Friday evening is a networking/fellowship type gathering with hands-on activities and is free except for the costs of the craft materials. Workshops and networking fill the day on Saturday, February 9.

A wide variety of workshop sessions will meet the needs of both new and experienced volunteers, staff, and 4-H members. The registration cost for Saturday is \$10 and includes lunch and breaks.

The Polk County 4-H Club Committee has committed to all leaders attending this retreat for the first time, to pay for their registration fee. Please communicate with Andrea if interested in attending. Registration forms are online or at the Extension Office.

## February Leader Training

The next club leader training is scheduled for **Monday, February 25** from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. or 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. This training will fulfill a leader training credit. Each leader is required to attend two trainings each year. We also have alternative ways of earning credits such as training available via the internet (check with the Extension Office for system requirements) and/or a DVD. Each of these alternative trainings require a short quiz to be turned in.

## Midnight Madness

Save the Date! County Council will be sponsoring Midnight Madness at the Altoona Campus on Saturday, March 15 from 7:00 p.m. – midnight. Youth pay \$5.00 to get in the door. Adults are free. Open gym, swimming and games will be played throughout the night. More information will be posted in next month's newsletter.

## Iowa Beef Expo

The Iowa Beef Expo will be held February 10 – 17 at the Iowa State Fairgrounds. The Junior Show begins February 15. This IJBBA sanctioned show requires registrations to be postmarked by February 1 for valid entry. For more information, go to [www.iowabeefexpo.com](http://www.iowabeefexpo.com) or contact Mindy Campfield at 966-0075.

## Horse Jamboree

The 2008 State Youth Horse Jamboree is scheduled for April 12 and 13 at the Iowa State Fairgrounds. There are several non-riding competitions to compete in as an individual or team. For complete schedule and registration information, go to: [www.extension.iastate.edu/4H/Agriculture/livestockhandbookHorse.htm](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4H/Agriculture/livestockhandbookHorse.htm) and scroll down to the Horse Jamboree information.

## FSQA 2008

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.

Certification can be accomplished through a two-hour workshop (all age groups), or by testing out (ages 12-18). Hands-on activities will be done as part of the certification workshop. Exhibitors that wish to certify in 2008 by workshop need to attend one of the following certifications:

### Thursday, March 13

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.  
Polk County Extension

### Tuesday, March 18

2:00 – 4:00 p.m.  
Polk County Extension

**Thursday, March 20**  
2:00 – 4:00 p.m.  
Polk County Extension

Several 4-H members tested-out of FSQA and won't necessarily need to recertify this year. The Polk County Extension office will send out letters to individual exhibitors in the next month in regards to if 2008 recertification is necessary for each member or not.

## Weigh-In Dates

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

**Swine** – Saturday, April 5 from 8:00 –noon at Don Timmins' farm in Altoona.

**Sheep and Meat Goat** - Saturday, May 3 from 8:00 – 11:00 a.m. at the State Fairgrounds – Sheep Barn

## 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 15, 2008. 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.

## 2008 Polk County Fair Dates

The 2008 Polk County Fair is scheduled for July 16 – 21 at the Iowa State Fair Grounds. Conference Judging Day will be held on Wednesday, July 16.

## Phone Numbers, E-Mail and Website Addresses

Andrea Nelson – 261-4201  
[nelsonar@iastate.edu](mailto:nelsonar@iastate.edu)

Jeff Macomber – 993-4281  
[jmacombe@iastate.edu](mailto:jmacombe@iastate.edu)

Polk Co. 4-H Club Page  
[www.extension.iastate.edu/polk/info/4h/club.htm](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/polk/info/4h/club.htm)



## Dates to Remember

**January 10** Award Workshop 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. Extension Office

**January 21** Office Closed

**February 1** Area Award Applications Due

**February 1** 4-H Scholarships Due

**February 8 - 9** State Leaders Retreat – DMACC – Newton

**February 15 – 17** Iowa Beef Expo Junior Show Iowa State Fairgrounds

**February 25** 4-H Leader Meeting 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. or 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Extension Office

**March 1** Area/State Selection Award Interviews at United Community Schools, Boone

**March 13** FSQA Workshop 6:00p.m. – 8:00 p.m. – Extension Office

**March 15** Midnight Madness 7:00 p.m. – 12:00 a.m. Altoona Campus

**March 18** FSQA Workshop 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. – Extension Office

**March 20** FSQA Workshop 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. – Extension Office

**April 5** Swine Weigh-in 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon Don Timmins' farm, Altoona

**April 12 – 13** Horse Jamboree Iowa State Fairgrounds

**May 3** Market Sheep and Meat Goat Weigh-in 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Iowa State Fairgrounds

**May 15** 4-H Enrollments due

**May 15** Livestock IDs due

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