

CLEVER POWER

The Polk County 4-H Newsletter - June 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

Dear 4-H Families,

Congratulations-you have made Polk County 4-H the biggest 4-H county in the state of Iowa! This year we saw tremendous growth in our 4-H enrollments, due in large part to a growing after school club program. We saw a nearly 10% percent growth in enrollment in Polk County this year, and we wanted to let you know how proud and happy we are to be working with such a dynamic and exciting 4-H program!

We did have some issues with enrollment forms that we would like to make you aware of as well. While it is true that the county deadline for enrollment forms is May 15th, it makes it extremely difficult for us to get information about 4-H out to you in a timely manner if we do not know who you are. In order to keep track of over 600 4-H'ers in Polk County, we rely on a database that gets updated when we receive your enrollment forms. In order to remind you of pertinent deadlines, project workshops, or just to ensure that you receive the monthly Clover Power it is essential that we have your enrollment forms as soon as possible for next year.

To assist us with getting information earlier, to allow you to also have that information, we will have a new re-enrollment deadline for next year. All members that re-enroll prior to November 15th will receive a 4-H incentive gift (yet to be determined and suggestions appreciated!). New members that enroll will also receive this gift. As always, we would accept new enrollments right up till that May 15th deadline to allow new members every opportunity to join! We want to keep you all informed, so you can have a great 4-H year. We don't want you to miss out on any of the exciting opportunities we have planned!

Thanks again for making Polk County the state's 4-H leader!

Sincerely,



Erin Pierce
County Youth Coordinator



Phil Heckman
County Youth Coordinator

Recognition

A big thank you to all 4-H Clubs that donated to the Iowa 4-Her's for 4-H Campaign. We surpassed the amount raised last year and raised \$809 from Polk County 4-Her's. The clubs that donated this year included:

Alleman Aces	Altoona Hustling Herdsmen
Ankeny Achievers	Elkhart Rising Suns
Innovators	Jester Dreamers
Johnston Evergreens	Lucky Charmers
New Beginnings	Plowshare
River Hills	Urban Farmers
Urbandale Creative Clovers	Valley Pacers
We XL	



IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
University Extension

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



“ISU Extension-Polk County to Have a Bigger, Better, Bolder Presence”

With the knowledge that the lease on our current facility would expire at the end of August 2008, the Extension Council spent a good deal of time discussing options for relocation. Their primary criteria were: accessibility, visibility,

adequate meeting space and parking, and safety (particularly in the evening hours).

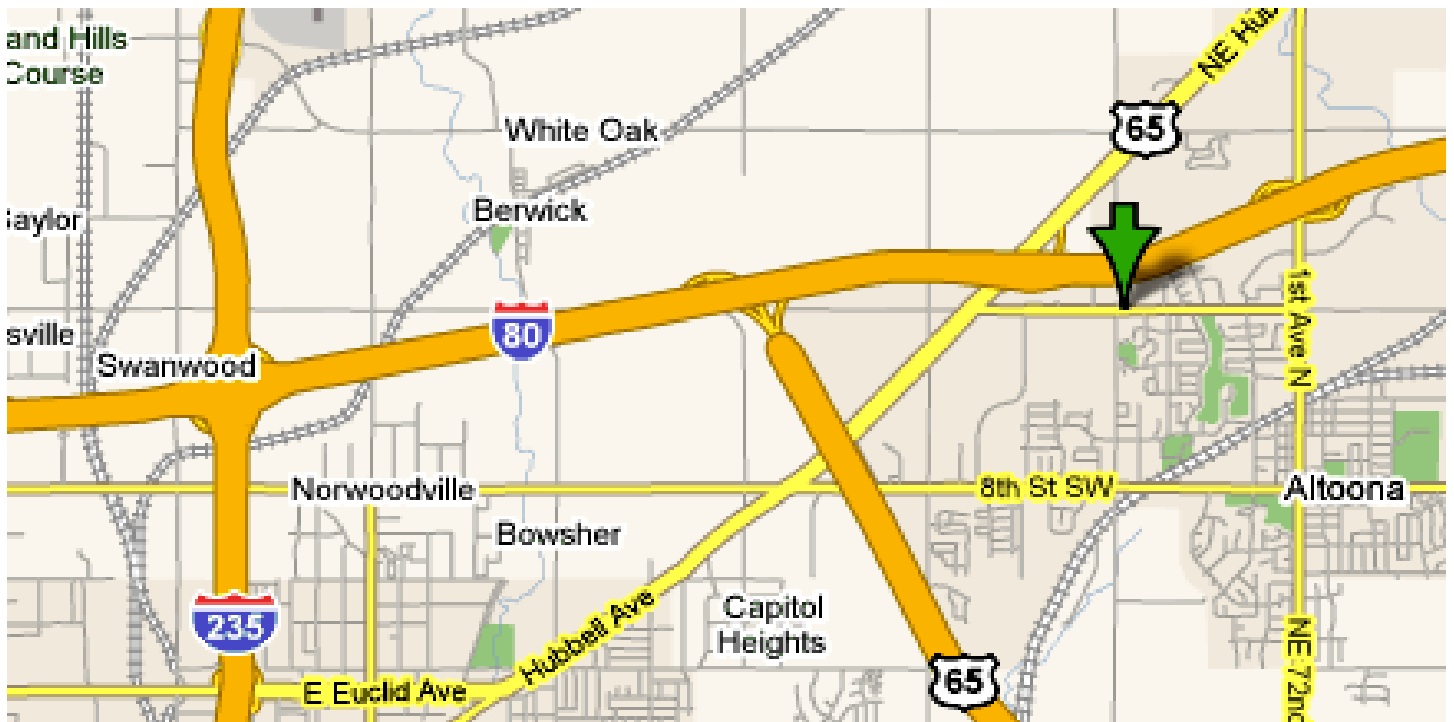
In January, the Extension Council formed a Strategic Planning and Facilities Task Force to investigate our options. Our first step was to retain the services of a real estate broker who provided us with a list of 50 properties in Polk County. That list was narrowed to 33, then to 12, four, two and finally one. We are very pleased to announce that in August we will be relocating to **1625 Adventureland Drive in Altoona**. This 21,000 sq ft. facility is approximately 10 years old and was formerly occupied by the administrative departments of Prairie Meadows. We will be leasing to own approximately 12,000 sq ft. The interior will be totally redesigned to fit the needs of ISU Extension-Polk County for the next 15-20 years. This location has a lot of potential and the plans for immediate (Bass Pro Shops, Olympic Village) and future development are very exciting.

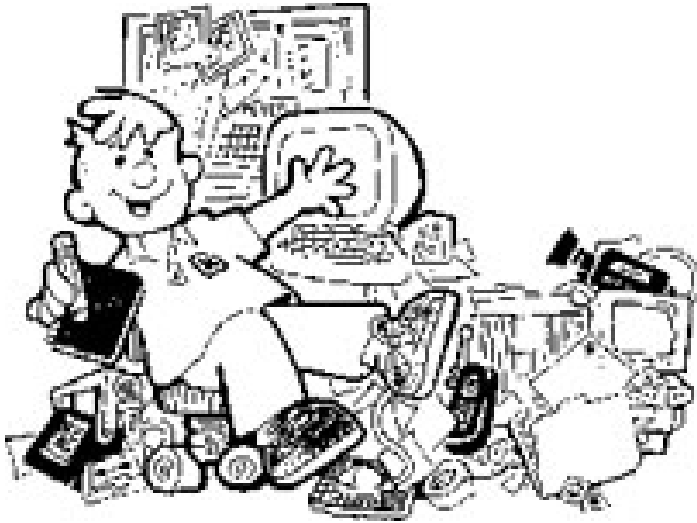


What we are most pleased to announce is that we will have a 3,300 sq ft conference facility which can easily accommodate 150 persons with sufficient parking. The room will also have the capability of being divided into three separate meeting rooms for smaller groups. Located across from two highly recognizable landmarks (Adventureland and Prairie Meadows) and able to be viewed from one of the nation’s busy interstate highways (I-80) makes this location very attractive to our clients.

With more than 619 youths enrolled in 4-H (and a whole bunch more coming next year) we still cannot bring all of you together in one location, but we are very excited about the prospect of conducting side-by-side workshops and events. Hopefully, we can start planning some 4-H fundraising events to help create an endowment which would be able to provide financial assistance for the Intermediate Trip, Citizenship Washington Focus and even college scholarships for our award winners.

We hope that you are as pleased with this news as we are and look forward to continuing to serve and growing 4-H in Polk County.





Upcoming Workshops

Visual Arts – Cost \$3.00

Friday, June 6 – 10:00 am – 12:00 Noon
Ankeny Arts Center

Photography – Shooting and Showing the Best –

Cost \$4.00 for Zoo Admission
Saturday, June 7 – 10:00 – 12:00
Blank Park Zoo

'Weigh' Your Options

Thursday, June 19 – 6:30 – 8:30 pm
Extension Office



Fair Find Out Meeting

Is this your first time to the Polk County Fair? Do you have some questions about where to check-in or how many pigs you can bring? Come to our Fair Find out night on June 12th from 6:30-7:30 at the Polk County Extension Office. We'll go over what you should expect at the fair from check-in to check out. Staff from the Extension Office and members of the Fair Board will be on hand to answer your questions. If you've got questions, we'll have answers!

Intermediate Leadership Day



June 21, 2008
Beginning at 9:00 AM

COMMUNICATION!

Come and spend the morning at Polk County Extension's Adventure Learning Center at Living History Farms. We'll be exploring aspects of how to effectively communicate while conquering the obstacles on the low ropes challenge course.

LEADERSHIP!

Make new friends as you work together to become the next generation of Polk County 4-H leaders.

CITIZENSHIP!

In the afternoon we will help out at Living History Farms, contributing to the operation of one of the biggest outdoor living history museums in the country. Spend the afternoon in the open air, knowing that you are contributing to your community.

4-H'ers who participate will be given a free pass to come back and tour Living History Farms on another day. Pack a lunch and plan for a full day outside. Space is limited to the first 20, but we still have a few slots available. 6th, 7th, and 8th graders are eligible to attend. Contact Phil to reserve your spot.





A Year Around Affair

Polk County 4-H and FFA Fair

The Polk County Fair will be July 16-21, 2008 at the Iowa State Fairgrounds. Fair books are the same as last year. The theme is "A Year Around Affair". If you need a Fair book, you can pick one up at the Extension Office. Rule and class changes or additions have been posted on our website: www.extension.iastate.edu/polk/info/4h/club.htm.

Conference Judging

Conference judging will take place on Wednesday, July 16 starting at 8:30 a.m. to noon and 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Be sure to check page 8 of the fair book for the time your club is scheduled for conference judging, or ask your club leader.

Remember there is a lunch break at noon on July 16 for all the judges, superintendents, and helpers to eat lunch so please plan accordingly.

No parents will be allowed in the judging area while their child is being judged. There are plenty of benches available for the parents to sit and wait while your child is being judged. Be sure to **READ** pages 14-15 and 57-60 for the general rules.

If this is your first year attending the fair, ask a fellow 4-H member or club leader about the experience. If you're exhibiting in the 4-H Exhibit Building, please remember to check-in with the front desk just inside the main entrance. Helpers at the desk will be able to give you your "blue sheet" of 4-H entries. There is space on the blue sheet for the judges to mark what ribbon you received. **It's very important to remember to return your blue sheet to the information desk when you're through with judging** - without it, you will not be able to receive premium monies after the fair.

Forms and Entry Tags

If you are planning on exhibiting photography, posters, or preserved foods, there are forms or labels that you can either pick up from your leader or extension office. Entry tags (needed for all exhibits) are also available at the office.

Help for Preparing Fair Exhibits

- Determine the goal for the exhibit
 - Check 4-H project manuals
 - Discuss ideas with a parent, leader, or other 4-H'ers
 - Check the Polk Co. Extension Office for additional resources
 - If you are preparing preserved foods (canning) check to be sure you are using currently approved methods. Check at the Polk Co. Extension Office for USDA guidelines or call the ISU Answer Line 1-800-262-3804 for information.
 - Read and follow all class descriptions, rules, and guidelines in your fair book.
- Plan now, prepare ahead of time and enjoy the fair.

Posters

Another communication event is decorating a poster. They will be judged on Conference Judging Day (July 16) at the Polk County Fair. This year's poster themes are:

- A. **4-H is...** (open to 4-H'ers interpretation)
- B. **Join 4-H**
- C. **Ignite the Flame** (the 2008 State 4-H Conference theme)
- D. **U Gotta Love It!** (the 2008 Iowa State Fair theme)

For additional poster rules and regulations, refer to page 69 the Polk County Fair Book.

Food & Nutrition

Please read the 4-H publication, "Inappropriate Food Exhibits for Iowa 4-H Fairs", available from the Extension Office, or online. These are the same rules that were instituted last year.

Club Booths

Clubs may decorate their club booths from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 15. All club booths are judged on their decorations. Booth decoration judging will take place on Thursday morning. Horse stalls may be decorated after 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 16 but will not be judged this year.

All exhibits are to remain at the fair grounds until 4:00 p.m. Sunday, July 21. Members are responsible for picking up their exhibits at that time or make arrangements for someone else to get them. It is **not** the responsibility of the extension staff to take any extra exhibits back to the extension office.

Clothing Event

Entry forms are in the Polk County Fair entry packets (top of the yellow page) and are **due July 1**. Judging for the Clothing Event is scheduled for the morning of July 12 at the Extension Office. The Clothing Event consists of three divisions, Fashion Revue, 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. **PLEASE NOTE:** Bargain items purchased at a regular retail outlet should be entered in Clothing Selection. The \$15 Challenge is for items purchased at unconventional clothing outlets. Additional rules and regulations are in the fair book. Tips on filling out reporting forms and modeling are also available from the Extension Office. Entry forms are in the Polk County Fair Entry Packet. Reporting Forms are separate documents that participants need to bring with them on the July 12 judging day. The Clothing Event Superintendent is Eileen Klemme-DeVore.

Clothing Department

Do you have difficulty writing elements and principles of design to your clothing exhibit reports? Try reading the publication, "Unraveling the Mystery of Design Elements and Principles in Clothing". It is a full color brochure that provides some great examples and answers to clothing design. You can pick a copy up in the Extension Office.

BBQ

The BBQ will be Wednesday, July 16 at 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. in the 4-H Exhibit Building. There is no charge for the BBQ, but donations will be accepted. These funds are the major source of income for the 4-H Club Committee to help cover the cost of the youth recognition, and scholarships for youth and adults. Your generosity is very much appreciated.

Pancake Breakfast

The County Council is having a pancake breakfast Friday, July 18 from 7:00 – 9:00 a.m. in the 4-H Exhibit Building. Plan on supporting the County Council by attending the breakfast.

Teen Dance

The County Council is hosting a teen dance for youth ages 13 and up on Saturday, July 19 from 9:00 p.m. – midnight. Location of event will be on the fairgrounds, however, the building has not been confirmed. Please look for signs posted at the fair.

Decorate A Bale Contest

Don't forget to decorate a bale for your club (or individual) to get a chance to win the \$20 grand prize! Judging will take place Thursday, July 17 at 10:00 a.m. Rules for contest are on page 89 of the Fair Book.

Anything Goes Contest

Back by popular demand, the most wild and exciting competition of the fair! On Thursday, July 17 at 8:00 p.m. in the Horse Arena, clubs have an opportunity to participate against one another for the \$20 grand prize! Scoring based on speed through an obstacle course and completion of challenging games. Entry fee is \$2 per club by July 1st. Late registration (after July 1st) will be \$5 per club. Complete set of rules and regulations are on page 89 of Fair Book.

Poultry and Rabbit Exhibitors

All poultry and rabbit cages need to be cleaned and checked by the superintendent before you leave the fairgrounds or you will forfeit your premium money.

Only market broilers can be sold at the livestock auction on Monday.

Sheep

All ewes and rams need to have scrapie tags in order to show at the Polk County or Iowa State Fairs. Wether lambs do not need to be tagged.

Helmets

All horse exhibitors will be required to wear ASTM/SEI approved protective headgear with chin strap and properly fitted harness when mounted, riding and driving. Every time, every ride.

Horse Clinics

All 1st and 2nd year Horse and Pony Exhibitors are required to attend a training session to be held on Thursday July 17, 2008. To accommodate all exhibitors, the training will be held at two different times; 1-3 PM and 5-7 PM in the Polk County Fair Arena- 1st and 2nd year exhibitors must attend at least one of the sessions. Each two-hour session will include basic horse care, safety and show ring etiquette. It is highly recommended ALL Horse and Pony exhibitors prepare for the Polk County Fair by attending various events that provide them with the opportunity to learn safety, basic horse care and show ring etiquette. It is strongly suggested that ALL Horse and Pony exhibitors prepare well in advance of the 4H Fair.

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 record-keeping, 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 is essential.

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 have one last opportunity to do so on:

Monday, June 9
1:30 – 3:30 pm
Polk County Extension

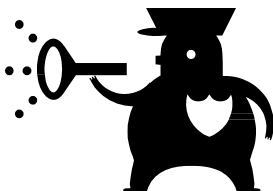


If interested in certifying by exam, please make an appointment by calling 261-4230. Exams need to be completed by July 1.

Several 4-H members tested-out of FSQA and won't necessarily need to recertify this year. The Polk County Extension office sent out letters to livestock exhibitors in regards to individual's certification status. If you did not receive a letter, received one and have decided not to show this year, or have questions, please contact Phil at 261-4230.

Hosting the Building and Night Watch

We have passed the deadline to sign up for hosting the building and night watch shifts, or risk having a shift assigned for you. A few shifts were needed to be filled and have been assigned. Please read the Hosting and Night Watch letter posted on our website at: www.extension.iastate.edu/polk/info/4h/club.htm.



Rabbit and Cat Workshops

Rabbit Workshops:

June 9 & July 8 6:30 to 8:00 pm

This workshop will discuss rabbit care, fair entries, showing your rabbit at the county fair & state fair 4-H show and rabbit breeds. Tattooing will be available at 50 cents per rabbit to cover the club's county fair trophy. Bring a carpet square and one rabbit to work on showmanship skills. Questions? Call Carol Stock, 515 447-1012.

Cat workshop:

June 23, Monday- 6:30 to 8:00 pm

Becky Stock and Amanda O'Gorman will present the workshop on general kitten / cat care, diseases, showmanship skills and preparations for the county fair. **Do not** bring your cat or kitten to this workshop. Questions? Call Becky Stock, 515 865-9141.

Horse Committee Meeting

There will be a Horse Committee Meeting on June 10 at 6:30 p.m. at the Polk County Extension Office. All volunteers, parents and horse project members are invited to attend. Discussion about changes to the Safety Clinic requirement and changes at the Fairground this year will take place.



Health Certificate Requirements for the Polk County Fair

Cats & Dogs

A vet will be at check-in, but a current rabies certificate is required.

Rabbits and Poultry

A vet will issue a barn certificate for the rabbits and poultry. A \$1.00 fee will be collected at check in for each exhibitor in each division.

Beef, dairy goats, boer goats, llamas, horses, sheep, and swine

The fair board will accept 1 health certificate for the entire family with multiple species listed on the certificate. Each superintendent will need to see the health certificate at check in.

Animals not having health certificates will be excluded from the fair and must be taken home.

2008 Iowa State Fair



Looking ahead, the 2008 Iowa State Fair will be August 7 – 17, 2008! Entry deadline for State Fair entries is July 1. The 2008 Iowa State Fair Premium Book will be available exclusively online at www.iowastatefair.org. No hard copies will be mailed to families or County Extension Offices this year.

Ak-Sar-Ben

The 81st Annual Ak-Sar-Ben 4-H Livestock Exposition will take place September 23 – September 28, 2008 at the Qwest Center in Omaha, Nebraska. **Entries are due to the Polk Co Extension Office by August 15.** A reminder that all market animals must have gone through the verification process to be eligible to exhibit at Ak-Sar-Ben.



Phone Numbers, E-Mail and Website Addresses

Erin Pierce – 261-4209
ekpierce@iastate.edu
4-H County Youth Coordinator

Phil Heckman – 261-4230
pheckman@iastate.edu
4-H County Youth Coordinator

Diana Sosalla – 261-4202
sosalla@iastate.edu
4-H Internal Program Coordinator

Jeff Macomber – 993-4281
jmacombe@iastate.edu
Youth Development Specialist

Polk Co. 4-H Club Page
www.extension.iastate.edu/polk/info/4h/club.htm



Dates to Remember

- June 1** Communication Fun Day Entry Form Due – Extension Office
- June 4** County Council 7:00 p.m. Extension Office
- June 6** Visual Arts Workshop 10:00 am – 12:00 Noon – Ankeny Arts Center
- June 7** Photography Workshop – 10:00 am – 12:00 Noon – Blank Park Zoo
- June 9** *FINAL!* FSQA Makeup Session – 1:30 – 3:30 pm – Extension Office
- June 10** Horse Committee Meeting – 6:30 pm – Extension Office
- June 12** New Member Workshop – 6:30 – 7:30 pm – Extension Office
- June 17 – 19** Central Iowa Intermediate 4-H Trip to the Twin Cities
- June 18** Fair Board 7:30 p.m. Extension Office
- June 18 – 20** Photo Camp at the Iowa 4-H Camp
- June 19** 'Weigh' Your Options Workshop – 6:30 – 8:30 pm – Extension Office
- June 21** Intermediate Leadership Day at Living History Farms
- June 24 – 26** State 4-H Conference ISU Campus, Ames
- June 28** Communication Fun Day – Extension Office
- July 1** County Fair and State Fair Entry Deadline
- July 1** State Fair Volunteer Application Deadline – Due to State Office
- July 9** Fair Board Meeting 7:30 p.m. Extension Office
- July 12** Clothing Event – Extension Office
- July 16 -21** Polk County Fair at Iowa State Fairgrounds
- August 7 – 17** Iowa State Fair
- August 15** Deadline for Intermediate Council and County Council Applications

4-H is a **community** of **young people** across **America** who are learning **leadership, citizenship** and **life skills.**





Polk County 4-H
ISU Extension, Polk County
5201 NE 14th St, Ste A
Des Moines, IA 50313