

CLOVER POWER

The Polk County 4-H Newsletter - December 2008

Pledging our heads, hearts, hands and health.

ISU Extension, Polk County 1625 Adventureland Dr, Ste A, Altoona, IA 50009
(515)957-5760 Fax (515)967-6164 www.extension.iastate.edu/polk

Let's Go GREEN!

You would be amazed at how much paper, money, and other resources are used to produce the Clover Power newsletter in hard copy each month. Here is a short rundown of the costs and amounts of resources used to send out the Clover Power via mail every month:

Cost of single hard copy Clover Power	\$1.10
Number of Clover Power Newsletters sent out every month	350
Cost of sending out the Clover Power each month	\$385
Cost of sending out the Clover Power each year	\$4,620
Number of pieces of paper used to print the Clover Power each month	1750
Number of pieces of paper used to print the Clover Power each year	21,000

That's 42 reams of paper we use every year

Not to mention that our 4-H program is rapidly growing (we grew 10% in membership last year alone!) We would like to get more people (who have e-mail available) to consider the GREEN option and opt to receive the newsletter via e-mail rather than mail. We do know that not everyone has this available, but every little bit will help in decreasing the resources (both monetary and in our environment) used to send out the newsletter.



If you choose to receive the Clover Power via e-mail, you will receive an e-mail when the **Clover Power's newest edition is posted online** and will be able to open the newsletter in PDF form (in color!) or in Microsoft Word format that just includes the text version of the newsletter. It would also be a good bet to "allow" Erin's e-mail (ekpierce@iastate.edu) to ensure that your newsletter isn't blocked by spam filters.

Please consider this GREEN option and feel free to contact Erin if you have any questions. It would be best to e-mail Erin to get your name added to the Clover Power e-mail list to ensure proper spelling, etc. Thank you for considering this opportunity to make Polk County 4-H more GREEN!

Sincerely,

Erin Pierce
County Youth Coordinator

Phil Heckman
County Youth Coordinator

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
University Extension

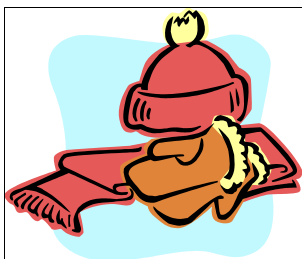
Recognition



Congratulations goes out to Grant Bargfrede in recognition of him being selected to attend National Congress in Atlanta, GA. Grant has just returned from his trip and has many stories to tell, so be sure to ask him about his experience!

A big thank you to all the clubs that donated Holiday Cards for the Iowa 4-H Foundation! We had many clubs participate this year!

As the cold Iowa winter has arrived, the gloves, hats, scarves and mittens that were donated at the Polk County Awards Celebration are much appreciated. These items were donated to families in need this winter season. Thank you to all who donated to this cause!



DMARC Food Pantry let us know that 589 items were donated by Polk County 4-Hers this fall. They also let us know that this is a very substantial donation and thank the Polk County 4-H families for donating this year!

December New Family Workshop – UPDATE!

With December being a very busy month surrounding the holiday season, we have decided to cancel the December New Family Workshop originally scheduled for Thursday, December 11th. Although we are cancelling the December meeting, we really want to encourage new members and their families (and anyone else interested in the topic!) to attend the January workshop. We will be covering the very important topic of goal setting and discussing project areas and exhibits for the fair. Goal setting is essential to having a great 4-H year, so we hope you will join us to get off on the right foot in your project areas!



Intermediate Council Would Like Your Help

The Intermediate Council has decided to pursue a community service project to help ill children in Polk County. They plan to write grants and solicit donations of cash and used video games (from any gaming platform,) in order to purchase a Wii system, accessories, and games to be donated to the Blank Children's Hospital to help ill



kids who are away from their homes and friends have something fun to do. Work on this project has begun in earnest, and the Intermediate Council has already written a Pioneer Seed Grant, received a very generous cash donation from the Alleman Aces 4-H club, and have arranged for donation drop boxes to be placed at Games 'N More at Valley West Mall and at Mayhem Collectibles on University. We will also accept donations at the Polk County Extension Office. If you are interested in helping out with this project or simply have questions feel free to contact Phil at 957-5771 or pheckman@iastate.edu.

Enrollment Forms

We have passed the November 14th incentive deadline to receive a t-shirt for enrolling this year, but we still need your enrollment turned in as soon as possible if **you haven't turned it in yet**. New 4-H members will still be able to receive a t-shirt if they are enrolled by May 15th. If you have not received your re-enrollment form yet, please contact your leader or the extension office for assistance. We like to enroll as many 4-H'ers as early as possible so that we can update our records for the new 4-H year and take 4-H'ers who have graduated, moved away, or outdated addresses off of the mailing list. This will be the last newsletter that you receive if you have not turned in your enrollment.

Enrollment forms need to be turned in with the **membership fee**. This year's fee is \$30. Scholarships are available for families that need assistance. To be a complete enrollment, we need the enrollment form, medical release form, and payment. For questions or to request assistance, please contact Erin at 957-5770 or ekpierce@iastate.edu, or Phil at 957-5771 or pheckman@iastate.edu.

Area Awards

There are several members that have done a great job of filling out award applications, and many more that **probably thought about it, but didn't complete them** by the deadline. There are more opportunities for recognition and this may be the one for you! It is time to start planning to apply for area awards. There are many opportunities to choose from at the area level.

State 4-H Council: Be an ambassador for the state 4-H program. Provide input on 4-H program issues, help plan and execute state events, practice leadership, citizenship, and communication skills. Grant Bargfrede is the ambassador for Polk County and can tell you more about his experience this year.

Project Awards: Receive recognition if you have excelled in projects by participating, learning, and evaluating 4-H experiences.

Iowa Youth Technology Team: Work together with teens from around the state to expand technology use at 4-H events and activities.

National 4-H Conference: Go to Washington D.C. and meet with legislators, businesses, and others to discuss issues that help give vision for the 4-H program.

National 4-H Congress: Participate in a community service project, attend workshops, and interact with **4-H'ers from around the country while in Atlanta, Georgia.** Grant Bargfrede attended National 4-H Congress at the end of November .

Area and state selection process for these opportunities will involve completing an application form, gathering and putting together up to five pages of written support material or a 10 minute video, an interview at the area and state level will be held for those advancing. 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. Erin is looking forward to helping you get your materials ready for this event. Please contact Erin to set up an appointment to review materials and prepare for your interview. Applications are due February 2.



2009 Iowa 4-H Scholarships Available

Are you a high school senior preparing to graduate in May? You have probably already started pursuing scholarship opportunities, but **don't forget about** the Iowa 4-H Scholarships that

are available to you as a 4-H member! Check out this website to get proper forms and information: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4H/grants.html>. Please remember that these applications need to be sent to the State 4-H Office by February 2nd rather than to the Polk County Extension Office. If your materials arrive at the Polk County Extension Office on February 2nd, they will not make it to the State 4-H Office by the deadline. Please contact Erin at 957-5770 or ekpierce@iastate.edu if you have any questions about the application process or if you would like assistance in preparing your application.

Award 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 Monday, January 12 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 2) with filling out forms correctly. Erin and Phil 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.

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

Legislative Day, The Power of Youth an Old Event Made New

There are several exciting changes to the legislative day event this year! A committee has been formed at the state 4-H office to reinvent and reinvigorate the Legislative Day Event into something more fun, engaging, and educational. The first big change is a change in name. The committee wanted to focus the event on leadership learning instead of simply a visit to the capital. To reflect this change in focus The old **Legislative Day will be now be called "The Power of Youth, Iowa 4-H."** But what is being done is more than just a name change, Legislative Day is being entirely overhauled and refocused to make it into a premiere leadership learning experience for our 4-H'ers. The second big change is that in order to focus the impact of this event it will be directed primarily at our Intermediate aged 4-H'ers. Hopefully this will allow our junior high aged youth to get an early start on the leadership experiences that will be a little more accessible to them once they become senior 4-Her's. The last big change is that this event will be re-opened to all 99 counties every year. Each county will be able to bring up to four 4-H'ers who are interested in learning about leadership and are willing to work hard to represent their county and communicate what impact 4-H has in their community. If you are an intermediate 4-H'er and you would like to be considered for this event, please contact the Extension Office at 515-957-5771 or pheckman@iastate.edu for more details about what we will be doing.



Upcoming Workshops

Leather Tooling-What's Next?

Saturday, December 13 1:00 – 3:00 pm

Babysitting Basics

Saturday, January 24 and 31 (must attend both)
1:00 – 4:00 pm

Communications

Saturday, February 7 1:00 – 3:00 pm

Duct Tape Accessories

Saturday, February 21 1:00 – 3:00 pm

To RSVP for any of these workshops, please contact:

Diana Sosalla

957-5772

sosalla@iastate.edu



Weigh-In Dates

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

Market Beef – Saturday, December 13 from 8:00 – noon at the State Fairgrounds – Cattle Barn

Swine – Saturday, April 4 from 8:00 –noon at Don Timmins' farm in Altoona.

Sheep – Saturday, May 2 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, 2009 at 5:00 PM. 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.

Beef Weigh-in

All market beef and junior feeders will be weighed in December 13, 2008 from 8:00 a.m. to noon. The weigh-in will take place in the Cattle Barn of the State Fairgrounds.

Each ear tag is \$2.00 to be paid at the weigh-in.

Federal regulations will require all 4-H livestock producers to have an affidavit on file for 2 years for all animals that are intended for sale for meat or meat products. This includes dairy animals and breeding animals as they presumably will enter the producer chain as herd culls. Breeding and Dairy animals that were born before July 15th 2008 will simply need to provide documentation that their animals have continually been in the United States since the rule took effect. A sample affidavit is available at <http://www.iowabeefcenter.org/content/COOL/COOL%20Forms.doc>, at the extension office, and at the weigh-in sites. The Polk County Fair board will be requiring an affidavit for their auction records; these will accompany the Polk County Fair Entry forms due on July 1st. This is a clarification of what was in the last Clover Power. Polk County produced beef will also be identified at the weigh-in using the ear tag number and producer as part of the identification. To show in the Polk County Produced class at the Polk County Fair, the beef must be born in Polk County.

The Polk County weigh-in is also a State Fair and Ak-Sar-Ben verification site. If you are planning on showing market beef at the State Fair or Ak-Sar-Ben, you will also need to weigh-in on December 13. The cost to verify is \$4.00 per head, per event. This will be in addition to the \$2.00 ear tag fee. The verification process for Iowa State Fair has changed this year and will be done by retinal scanning. Ak-Sar-Ben verification will continue to rely on ear tagging and hair collection for DNA analysis. **4-H'ers will need to** complete and sign the verification form, which is similar to the current livestock ID sheet. Parents and member will be required to sign the verification form. If the parent or 4-H member is unable to attend the verification process, a Parental Waiver or Member Waiver will need to be signed and brought to the weigh-in. Those waiver forms are available at the Extension Office. Animals will NOT be eligible to show at the State Fair unless all the forms are signed. Your signature tells us that you have looked over the information and it is correct and that you have reviewed the rules on the back of the sheet as well. It is your responsibility to read and check the information before you sign it.

Any steers intending to show as a breed steer must bring their sire information to complete the verification form and have the registration tattoo in the animal's ear at verification time. 4-H'ers are limited to a maximum of six head to verify.



Country of Origin Labeling Requirements

As many of you know, the USDA mandated COOL (Country of Origin Labeling) requirements that went into effect September 30, 2008. The state 4-H office has provided an excellent publication to explain what **4-H'ers will need to do**. It can be found at <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4H/Agriculture/Documents/4H231.pdf>.

What 4-H'ers Need to Do

- Ask for Documentation – **4-H'ers need to make sure** they collect documentation from the seller when purchasing livestock projects. Documentation should include a signed affidavit from seller of livestock (an example can be found at, <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4H/Agriculture/index.htm>, under "Livestock ID")
- Keep documentation for 2 years minimum – **4-H'ers** must keep the appropriate documentation for a minimum of two years in the case of a USDA audit. If the **4-H'er is the original producer of their own livestock project** then the **4-H'er simply needs to keep copies of their production records for two years.**
- **Provide documentation of animal's origin to the Fair Board** – This will come in the form of an Animal Care and Disclosure State-ment for their particular species due at the time of Fair entry. For exhibitors that also show at State Fair, you will recognize this form as the "Drug Form," but it will have COOL Verbiage added.

Leader Training

The online training for module #1 is now available and can be found at the Polk County 4-H leader Site. (<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/polk/info/4h/leaders.htm>) Simple directions for completing the trainings are available there as well. Other options for receiving credit include watching a DVD version or the state 4-H office's **online registration and** web training version. The State Leaders retreat will be held on Saturday February 7th. Training module 1 will be offered during this event. All of these methods of training serve the same function, but leaders may choose which style is easiest for them to gain the credit needed to retain their leader status. Deadline to complete two credits of training is July 15, 2009. Every organizational and project leader need to complete two training credits each year. Leadership Module #2 will be presented on February 16, 2008. An afternoon session from 1-3 and an evening session from 6-8 will be offered.



Volunteers are the ♥ of our program!

State Volunteer Retreat to be held in Polk County this Year

The 2009 State 4-H Volunteer Retreat will be held in the evening February 6th and during the day on Saturday February 7th, 2009 in Ankeny. We encourage any Polk County Volunteer or Intermediate or Senior age (7th through 12th grades) 4-H'er, **who is involved in the leadership of 4-H to take advantage of this great training opportunity.** Several fun and informative sessions will be offered on a first come first served basis, so get your registration in early! Information about how to register and session offerings can be found at the Polk County 4-H Leader Website, (<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/polk/info/4h/leaders.htm>.) If you are a first time attendee of this event, Polk County Extension will even pay the registration fee of \$25 if we receive your registration in this office by January 2nd.

2009 Polk County Fair Dates

The 2009 Polk County Fair is scheduled for July 15-20 at the Iowa State Fair Grounds. Conference Judging Day will be held on Wednesday, July 15.



Phone Numbers, E-Mail and Website Addresses

Erin Pierce – 957-5770
ekpierce@iastate.edu
4-H County Youth Coordinator

Phil Heckman – 957-5771
pheckman@iastate.edu
4-H County Youth Coordinator

Diana Sosalla – 957-5772
sosalla@iastate.edu
4-H Volunteer Coordinator

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

Polk County Extension Office
1625 Adventureland Drive, Suite A
Altoona, IA 50009

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





December

- 13 Beef Weigh-In - 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
Iowa State Fairgrounds Cattle Barn
- 17 Fair Board Meeting 7:30 pm
- 24-25 Office Closed

January

- 1 Office Closed
- 6 Intermediate Council Meeting 7:00 pm
- 6 Club Committee Meeting 7:00 pm
- 7 Council Meeting 7:00 pm
- 8 New Families Workshop 6:30 pm
- 12 Award Workshop 7:00 pm
- 19 Office Closed
- 21 Fair Board Meeting 7:30 pm

February

- 2 Area Award Applications Due
- 2 Scholarship Applications Due
- 3 Intermediate Council Meeting 7:00 pm
- 4 County Council Meeting 7:00 pm
- 12 New Families Workshop 6:30 pm
- 16 Leader Training 1:00 – 3:00 pm
or 6:00 – 8:00 pm
- 18 Fair Board Meeting 7:30 pm

March

- 3 Intermediate Council Meeting 7:00 pm
- 3 Club Committee Meeting 7:00 pm
- 4 County Council Meeting 7:00 pm
- 7 Area Award Interviews
- 11 FSQA 6:00 – 8:00 pm
- 12 New Families Workshop 6:30 pm
- 17 FSQA 1:00-3:00 pm
- 19 FSQA 1:00-3:00 pm

April

- 1 County Council Meeting 7:00 pm
- 4 Swine Weigh-In
- 7 Intermediate Council Meeting 7:00 pm
- 9 New Families Workshop 6:30 pm
- 15 Fair Board Meeting 7:30 pm
- 27 Leader Meeting 1:00 – 3:00 pm
or 6:00 – 8:00 pm

May

- 2 Sheep Weigh-In
- 5 Intermediate Council Meeting 7:00 pm
- 6 County Council Meeting 7:00 pm
- 14 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
- 20 Fair Board Meeting 7:30 pm

June

- 2 Intermediate Council Meeting 7:00 pm
- 3 County Council Meeting 7:00 pm
- 6 King/Queen Candidate Interviews
- 11 New Families Workshop 6:30 pm
- 13 Communication Fun Day
- 17 Fair Board Meeting 7:30 pm
- TBA Intermediate Trip
- TBA Photography Camp
- 30 State 4-H Conference (Through July 2)

July

- 1 Polk County & Iowa State Fair Entry Packets Due
to Extension Office
- 1 County Council Meeting 7:00 pm
- 7 Intermediate Council Meeting 7:00 pm
- 8 Fair Board Meeting 7:30 pm
- 11 Clothing Event
- 15-20 Polk County Fair

August

- 13 New Families Celebration 6:30 pm
- 13-23 Iowa State Fair

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Polk County 4-H
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