



# FOCUS ON 4-H NOVEMBER 2010



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## Growing the 4-H Program

We hope you all had a Happy Halloween! There has been so much going on. I'd like to thank those of you who are helping make our after school activities a success. This past week the youth and I made glow in the dark slime. If you've never had an opportunity to do it, you might try it sometime...it's a real challenge. Also, the Halloween Spooktacular last Friday at the fairgrounds served as a nice 4-H marketing event. New enrollments are coming in! If you haven't submitted your reenrollment, please do so. Finally, the 4-H and Youth Committee is off the ground and I am so excited about all the possibilities that lie ahead. Have a safe and Happy Thanksgiving!

### WHAT'S INSIDE:

Pg 2, First 4-H and Youth Committee Meeting

Pg 2, Record Books are Impressive

Page 2, FSA Youth Loan Program

Pg 3, Leader Training

Pg 3, \$2500 Grant Opportunity

Pg 3, 2011 Pioneer Grants

Yours in 4-H,

Jack VanLaar

Sincerely,

Theresa Phares



**4-H**  
GROWING TOGETHER

**IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY**  
University Extension

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## First Meeting 4-H and Youth Committee

The 4-H and Youth Committee met for the first time on Tuesday, October 26th, at the 4-H Building. Committee members were very active and excited about the future of 4-H. Karen Pattison helped lay out the framework and purpose of the committee. The group wasted no time in creating a preliminary action plan. County action items included: more county-wide events, improvement of support to first year members, increased recruitment activities at the schools, more county project leaders and ork-

workshops and increased community partnerships. The group's next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 22, 2010 at the 4-H building from 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. Hope to see you there!

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## Record Books Are Very Impressive

There has been a good number of record books submitted...in fact, over 20. We would like to thank each one of you who turned in a record book. You should be very proud! They have made for very enjoyable reading and are extremely impressive. What a great book to have for college applications, job interviews, or for the day when you can share them with your own children or grandchildren. We encourage those of you who did not complete a

record book this year to do so next year. If you need assistance, please give me call. I would be glad to help.

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## Farm Service Agency Youth Loan Program

Farm Service Agency offers a variety of opportunities for kids 10 through the age of 20 with their Rural Youth Loan program. Loan funds may be used to buy animals, equipment, and supplies. These are direct loans and have a maximum loan amount of \$5000 over a period of 1 to 7 years. For additional information, please call your local FSA office .

## MISSION STATEMENT

4-H EMPOWERS YOUTH TO REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL WORKING



## Leader Training

For those of you who were not able to attend leader training, please call and make arrangements to go over the materials we covered and to complete a short evaluation. I would greatly appreciate it. Thank you.

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## Grant Opportunity for Decatur 4-H

Please encourage local farmers to choose 4-H for a \$2500 grant. Iowa farmers have until February 28 to help non-profit organizations in their communities with nearly \$250,000 in local grants through Monsanto's America's Farmers Grow Communities Project. We encourage you to share this information with your local farmers and have them choose 4-H! The program is intended to benefit non-profit community groups such as ag youth organizations, schools, and other civic groups. It is simple and easy to

apply. Simply go to <http://www.growcommunities.com> for more information or to apply.

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## 2011 Pioneer Grant Applications Available

Pioneer Hi-Bred International is offering Pioneer Community Improvement Grants through the Iowa 4-H Foundation again this year. Clubs in your county are encouraged to apply for "seed money" to help them get started on community projects. The brochure, information, and application are on the web at: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/serve/grants.htm>.

Applications and support letters for 2011 grants are due in

the county Extension office on December 1, 2010. With holiday activities and Christmas vacations, the Dec. 1 date allows county staff time to make comments on the club applications. These comments are very important to committee members who review the applications and decide which are funded.

## 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.



## Calendar

### **November**

**20: Awards Night  
starts 6:30 p.m.  
Central Decatur  
High School Com-  
mons. Please bring  
a dish to share.**

**22: 4-H and Youth  
Committee Meeting  
from 6:30 p.m. to  
8:30 p.m.**

**WANT TO KNOW MORE?**

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