



Hancock County

4-H Family News

Dear 4-H Families,

I can not believe how fast this year is going! A big THANK YOU to those members who have turned enrollment and medical release forms in. This newsletter is only going to those who have done so! Iowa 4-H has a goal for a 3% yearly growth in enrollment. How can you help Hancock County reach this goal? Invite a friend to your club meeting or next County event!

*Make sure to read the newsletter very closely this month as there is A LOT of information. While you're at it, write the dates on your calendar. Due to the large amount of information that I need to share with you we are going to try something different this month. I have shortened some of the articles (denoted by a *) by only giving the most important details. To get the rest of the story and new information as events are being planned, check out the newsletter online at www.extension.iastate.edu/hancock/kidsteens.htm Click on the Hancock County 4-H Newsletter on the right side. Some counties in our area only have the newsletter available online so I am confident that we can make this new idea a success!*

Remember, 4-H activities are the perfect place to spend time with family and friends!

Misty Hinson

Misty Hinson
County Youth Coordinator

Dates to Remember

February

28 New Member Orientation

March

6 Spring Leader Training*
8 Clover Kids - Extension Office, Garner
11 Garden Project Workshop
13 FSQA Training
14-15 Intermediate Overnight*
15 Sheep Selection Workshop*
15 Clover Kids - Britt Public Library
29 National 4-H Conference - Washington D.C.
29-31 Swine Weigh-in*

April

1-5 Swine Weigh-in
4-6 Shooting Sports Leader Certification Workshop*
12 Lamb Weigh-in
12 Horse Project Meeting
12-13 Horse Jamboree - State Fair Grounds
19 Clover Kids - Extension Office, Garner
19 State Fair Swine Weigh-in - Mason City
26 Clover Kids - Britt Public Library

May

15 Livestock ID Forms Due
17 Clover Kids - Britt Public Library
17 Orthel Jolly Workers Container Garden Workshop
31 Clover Kids - Extension Office, Garner

July

1 Fair Entry Forms Due
7 Clothing Selection/Fashion Revue Judging
16-21 Hancock County Fair

June

15 Poultry, Rabbit and Pet ID Forms Due

August

7-17 Iowa State Fair

Misty's Office Hours

You can find me in the office Monday - Friday
from 9 am-4:30 pm. Call, e-mail, or stop on by!
mhinson@iastate.edu

Attention New Members!

Many first year members find it a little hard navigating through their first year of 4-H. Whether you have a lot of questions or are just interested in learning something new, join me at the **Garner Public Library Senior Center on Thursday, February 28 from 7-8:30pm** for a new member orientation into 4-H.

Each member will go home with a New Member Packet to use as a reference. Jot down your questions or things you would like to know more about and bring them with you. Parents and leaders are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Intermediate Lock-In!!!!

Are you tired of the cold winter weather? Do you want to see old friends and meet new ones? If so, join us Friday and Saturday March 14-15 at the Forest city YMCA!

Participate in volleyball and basketball tournaments, play games, watch movies, swim, eat pizza at midnight and have a TON of FUN!

What could make this event even more fun? It is open to all 7th & 8th graders so invite a friend! Registration materials will be mailed to all 4-H members and can be downloaded from the website!

Project Materials Now Available

All members who have turned in their enrollment forms can pick-up their project materials at their next club meeting.

4-H Enrollment Forms Past-Due

Although we have had a number of enrollment forms turned in recently, we still have about 45 members from last year who are still considered inactive members. These members will not be receiving this newsletter or other county wide information. Please help by encouraging them to turn their enrollment and medical release forms in ASAP!

Food Safety Quality Assurance FSQA

Any 4-H Member exhibiting beef, swine, sheep, dairy (both cattle and goat), meat goat, rabbit and poultry at the Iowa State Fair must be FSQA certified. **This certification is also required for all 4-H swine exhibitors at the Hancock County Fair.** How do you become FSQA certified?

If you are ages 9-11 by Jan. 1st 2008 - must attend an approved training each year.

If you are ages 12-14 by Jan. 1st 2008 - attend a training every year OR take a test that will certify you until you turn 15.

If you are ages 15-18 by Jan. 1st 2008 - attend a training every year OR take a test that will certify you until you turn 19.

FSQA training is scheduled for Thursday, March 13th from 7-9 pm at the Extension Office. If you have a conflict with this date contact Misty as soon as possible to find a training in another county. Tests may be taken at any time.

State Fair Premium Books Online

Starting in May of 2008 the Iowa State Fair Premium books will only be available online at www.iowastatefair.org/competition/howtoenter.php This change will save over 1 million sheets of paper per year!

Workshop for Garden Project

Have you started thinking about your garden project yet? Attend the Garden Project Workshop on **Tuesday, March 11th from 7-8:30pm at the Garner Public Library Senior Center** and let garden superintendent Theresa Snyder help you with some ideas.

Container Gardening is one of the many topics that will be discussed. Bring your questions and an adult to help take notes. Everyone is guaranteed to learn something new!

New Swine ID Process

New for State Fair: a DNA punch tag that will serve as the ear tag as well as the DNA sample (no hair pulling) will be used this year. Intent to participate forms must be turned into the County Office by Monday, March 10th.

New for Ak-Sar-Ben: All swine must be nominated through the County Offices and not the State Fair regional site. Hair must be pulled for a DNA sample and sent along with an ID form and \$5/head to Ak-Sar-Ben. Deadline is June 15th. Please contact the Extension Office by May 5th if you plan to nominate for Ak-Sar-Ben.

County Fair Exhibitors: Hancock County Fair Derby Swine Weigh-in will be from March 29th - April 5th. It is your responsibility to contact the Extension Office to set up a date and time. Pigs weighed on March 29th will have a 60 pound maximum weight. If weighed after March 29th, 1 pound will be added each day to the maximum allowed weight.

Iowa Youth Horse Jamboree

The Iowa Youth horse Jamboree will be held April 12th and 13th at the Iowa State Fairgrounds in Des Moines in conjunction with the Iowa Horse Fair. For information on activities and entry form check out the online newsletter.

Horse Project leaders Crystal Drake and Laurie Hadacek will help members prepare for this event.

Spring Leader Training

4-H Leaders, join us for *4-H Youth Development - Enhancing Youth Leadership 4-H Leader Training* to learn positive youth development practices and activities that will help youth develop leadership skills. All organizational and project 4-H leaders are expected to complete the training. Please join us on Thursday, March 6th from 6:30-8:30 at the Extension Office. This is the second of two trainings focusing on leadership that you will need to complete this year. Please bring the *Step Up to Leadership Mentor Guide for Grades 6-12* that was handed out to each club at the fall training.

Remember, leader trainings are mandatory. If you are unable to attend, contact Misty immediately to set up an alternative training opportunity.

Sheep Selection Workshop

Wright County is holding a sheep selection workshop on Saturday, March 15th beginning at 10 am at the Joel Morriscal farm. Topics to be discussed are lamb selection, feeding market lambs, and some comments on health issues with sheep. Directions can be found in the online newsletter.

State 4-H Conference

Are you looking for something different to do this summer? Do you like to have fun and meet new friends? Do you want to experience college life? You can do all of these and more at the Iowa 4-H Youth Conference and Animal Science ROUNDUP to be held June 24th-26th in Ames on the Iowa State University campus. This statewide conference is open to all youth who have completed 8th through 12th grades. Activities include workshops, dances and community service. Mark your calendar and watch for more information to come.



NEW! Container Garden Challenge

Do you like to play in the soil? Are you looking for something a little different to bring to fair? If you answered yes then you are in luck! New for the 2008 Hancock County Fair is the Container Garden Challenge Class. This class is open to all 4-H members and you DO NOT have to be enrolled in the horticulture project to participate. Container Garden Challenge Requirements: Plant, tend, and present your container garden according to criteria set up in the fair book. You are encouraged to attend one of the two garden project workshops where one of the topics will be container gardening.

A county wide Garden Project Workshop is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 26th from 7-8:30pm at the Extension Office. Garden Superintendent and Master Gardener Theresa Snyder will be covering a wide variety of topics including container gardening. Orthel Jolly Workers 4-H club will be holding a Container Garden Workshop presented by Master Gardner Diane Deibler from 8:30-9:30am on Saturday, May 17th at the home of Melodie Hiscocks. All Hancock County 4-H members are welcome to attend.

Participants must choose a minimum of 3 plant varieties from the provided list. The number of plants will depend on the size of the container you choose. This years' container is a bucket that must have at least one handle. Remember to take into consideration where the bucket will be located when choosing the kinds and colors of plants as well as the shape and color of the bucket. Will it be in the shade or the sun? Will it sit on a porch/deck/stoop or in the middle of other landscaping? Do you want the colors to blend in with the other surroundings or to contrast and stand out? Once your bucket and plants are chosen, plant and tend your container garden. All buckets must arrive during the Garden & Crop check-in on Thursday of fair. Containers will be judged on balance of color and size of plants, how well plants work in

chosen container, appropriate plants for the location of the container and condition of plants at judging. Ribbons will be given for 1st and 2nd place but premiums will not be paid and containers will not be eligible for State Fair. Once judging is complete, containers will be placed around the fairgrounds until 6pm on Sunday.

NEW! Photography Challenge Class

Do you like to take pictures? Are you enrolled in the Photography Project and looking for a challenge? If this sounds like you, then I have a great opportunity you should not miss! new for the 2008 Hancock County Fair is the Photography Challenge Class. This class is open to all 4-h members and you DO NOT have to be enrolled in the Photography Project to participate. Photography Challenge Requirements: Attend the county wide photography challenge workshop and take pictures with a disposable camera.

The Photography Challenge Workshop will be held Thursday, June 5th at Eagle Lake. Professional Photographer Steve Madsen will conduct a short workshop beginning at 1:00pm. Some of the topics he will discuss are: controlling the light, setting up the picture, distance from the object and much more. Once the workshop is completed, attendees will be "turned loose" to take their pictures. The day will end as each individual uses all exposures on his/her camera and turns the camera in to Misty. All pictures will be developed using the same processing company and will be placed on the same black mat. You will be notified when your pictures are ready to be picked up at the Extension Office. Each participant will pay a developing fee on the day of the workshop. Participants are to choose 1 picture to mount on the black mat and enter into the Photography Challenge Class at fair. All entries must arrive on SMA/ Home Ec. Judging day. Ribbons will be given for 1st and 2nd place but premiums will not be paid and photos will not be eligible for State Fair.

Horse Project Opportunities

Horse Superintendents Crystal Drake and Laurie Hadacek have the first horse project workshop planned for 6pm on April 12th at the Extension Office with the first workout at the fairgrounds on May 6th beginning at 7pm. It is very important for all horse project members and/or a parent to attend this first informational meeting. Some of the topics that will be covered include spring vaccinations by a local Veterinarian, summer schedule and fun activities. Please call Crystal at 641-843-3933 or Laurie at 641-860-0140 and let them know how many will be attending so they can order enough pizza. You will need to provide your own drink.



Are you looking for a new challenge in your horse project? If so, you could participate in the State Horse Judging Contest to be held on June 19th. round up a team of 3-4 or enter as an individual. Contact Crystal at 641-843-3933 to set up practice sessions. Watch the web site for more details.

June also brings another open 4-H/FFA horse show. Details are still being worked out so watch the web site.

Market Beef Weight Limit

REMINDER: 1500 lb. live weight limit for Tyson Food (Denison) Plant. In May 2007 Tyson Foods in Denison notified all sellers they would not accept cattle weighing more than 1500 lbs. Their facility is not equipped to handle these carcasses. Please plan accordingly as you feed/finish your beef animals.

Calling All Dog Lovers!

Do you own a dog? Do you wish you owned a dog? Do you want to learn more about dogs? If you answered yes to any of these questions you will not want to miss out on this opportunity. Dog Obedience trainer and licensed American Kennel Club judge Linda Friedow and her veterinarian husband, Rory, will be holding a series of two dog lovers workshops on Monday, March 10th at the Extension Office in Garner and Monday, April 14th at the Britt Public Library from 7:30-8:30pm. Topics to be covered include grooming, behavior, nutrition, differences between breeds plus ideas for fair projects.



Dog Obedience

The dog obedience class through NIAAC will once again be offered at no fee for 4-H members. The class will meet on Thursday nights for six weeks from May 15th - June 19th from 6:30-7:30 at the Hancock County Fairgrounds. To sign up for this class call 1-800-GO-NIAAC ext. 4358 and reference course number 55622. Make sure to tell them you are a 4-H member!

Lamb Weigh-in



Lamb weigh-in has been scheduled for Saturday, April 12th from 9-10:30 at the Hancock County Fairgrounds in Britt.

Chaperones Needed!

Chaperones are needed for the Intermediate Lock-in scheduled for March 14-15 at the Forest City YMCA. This will be a fun packed evening and everyone is guaranteed to have a great time! Guidelines require 1 adult chaperone (18 or older) for every 10 youth that participate. Join the fun and help these kids make 4-H memories! Contact Misty ASAP for more information or to sign up.

Club Notes

Bingham Champions

Leader: John Schutter

Britt Broncos

Leaders: Nancy Horstman & Jane Johnson

-Club Meeting: February 10th - 2pm at Patterson's shop - club sledding party after the meeting.

-Club Meeting: March 8th - 9am at Patterson's shop

Elcon Indians

Leaders: Rosemary Weaver & Deb Dureger

-Family Potluck: February 26th - 6:30pm at the Garner Viaduct Center (USDA Building)

-Club Meeting: March 17th - 7pm at the Garner Education Center (Extension Office)

Ellery Country Clover

Leaders: Jennifer Kropp & Sherri Anderson

-Club Meeting: February 13th - 7:30pm at the United Methodist Church in Klemme

-Club Meeting: March 12th - 7:30pm at the United Methodist Church in Klemme

Erin Enterprizers

Leader: Allen Eekhoff



Orthel Jolly Workers

Leaders: Mel Hiscocks, Kathy Larson & Deb Kruger

-Club Meeting: February 9th - 9am-4pm at the Britt Municipal Building

-Movie Night: March 14th - 7-11pm at the Britt Teen Center

County Council Happenings

Members:

Emily Bertilson

Brittany Brooks

Lindsey Burgardt

*Sara Formanek

Cole Greiman

Kyle Greiman

*Morgan Greiman

Zach Greiman

Greg Gremmer

*Stephany Gremmer

Andrea Hrubes

*Courtney Jass

Whitney Johnson

Konnie Keifer

Danelle Kohlmeyer

*Libby Kropp

*Kristi Larson

Katie Lonneman

Valerie Luppen

Mary Pistek

*Brianna Schmidt

*Mike Tlach

* denotes the Executive Board

Clover Kids

Leader: Misty Hinson

-Garner: March 8th - 9-10:30 - Garner Ed. Center.

-Britt: March 15th - 9-10:30 - Britt Public Library.

Madison Livewires

Leaders: Greg & Kristi Wirtjes

-Meeting: March 8th - 9-10:30 - at the home of Greg and Kristi Wirtjes



....and justice for all

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