



# Clover Connection

Clayton County Extension

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Clayton County 4-H & FFA Family Newsletter

## November 2009



The *CLOVER CONNECTION* is prepared each month to keep all informed about the 4-H & Youth program and events in Clayton County. You are encouraged to read through it and contact the Extension Office if there are any questions.



### Extension Staff

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### Office Hours

Monday –Friday

8 am –12 Noon, 1-5 pm

Dear Friends:

We have so much to be thankful for in Clayton County and we are especially mindful of these things during the holiday season. Thank you for your support during the transition from county to regional director. As ISU Extension deals with state budget cuts, programs and services will be re-evaluated. 4-H is vital in our programming. The Iowa 4-H program is strong and we have a strong program here in Clayton County. Thanks to you—the 4-H families and volunteers!

It's time to fill out 4-H enrollment forms. Please contact your 4-H club leaders for your re-enrollment form. All forms & fees are due back into the Extension Office by December 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Pizzazz Night:** The 4-H Award Night is **Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup>** at Johnson's Reception Hall. A Spaghetti Supper will be served from 5:30-7:30 pm. This is a fundraiser for the county 4-H program. Monies raised will help pay the \$1 per member & leader insurance premiums and support other countywide activities. Tickets are \$5 in advance and \$6 at the door. Awards program starts at 7:30 pm.

Have a great Thanksgiving!

Tammy Muller

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County 4-H & Youth Program Coordinator



## Calendar of Events

### November

- 15 4-H County Council Meeting, 4 pm, Johnson's Reception Hall, Elkader
- 15 4-H Pizzazz Night, Spaghetti Supper served 5:30-7:30 pm, Award Program 7:30 pm, Johnson's Reception Hall, Elkader
- 17 Clover Kid Day Planning Meeting, 7:00 pm, Extension Office Elkader
- 21 Clayton County Cattlemen's Banquet, 6:30 pm Johnson's Reception Hall, Elkader
- 26-27 Thanksgiving Holiday, Extension Office Closed
- 28 Casino Night sponsored by Clayton County 4-H Foundation, 8 pm., Lakeside, Guttenberg



## It's Enrollment Time Again!



Each year 4-H members must re-enroll. Club leaders have enrollment forms. Also parents are asked to complete a new **Iowa 4-H Medical Information/Release Form** each year so that information is current. Copies of the medical form will be kept by the Extension Office and club leader and taken to all 4-H events. The goal is to be prepared in case of an injury.

In Clayton County 4-H funds are used to purchase basic accident insurance for 4-H club members and leaders for regularly approved activities with adult supervision excluding skiing, sledding and tubing. The Iowa 4-H program fee is \$30 per member. Clubs will be charged \$20 per member. The remaining \$10 will come from county funds and money raised at the silent auction.

Financial Aid is available from the Iowa 4-H Foundation for 4-H member needing assistance in paying the state 4-H development fee. Contact Tammy at the Extension Office for more details.

Also **Operation: Military Kids** will pay the 4-H program development fee for members (or potential members!) with a parent, step-parent, or sibling who is in the military. This includes all service branches, active, Guard, or Reserves, deployed or not. Please inform the Extension Office of the child's name, age, parent's name and address.

## Pioneer Grants

Pioneer Hi-Bred International will again sponsor the Community Improvement Program for 4-H Clubs in Iowa. The objective of this program is to stimulate local 4-H clubs to plan and carry out community improvement activities by providing "seed money" needed to make the project successful. Project suggestions include restoring a cemetery or historic monument, improving a ball park, planting flowers, replacing dead trees, building park benches or picnic tables, providing needed items for a shelter, or any other unique idea for improving your community. Grants range from a minimum of \$25 to a maximum of \$250. Information on this program is available from the Extension Office or check out the webpage at <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4H/PioneerGrants.html> . The deadline to apply is December 1.

## Handmade Greeting Cards Needed

The Iowa 4-H Foundation is seeking holiday cards made by 4-H'ers to mail to donors and board members. Cards are to show the creativity of 4-H members. Make the cards the equivalent of about 1/4 of a normal 8 1/2" x 11" page (think of a piece of paper folded in half, and then in half again). Sign the back of the cards with your name, club, community and county. Mail cards with envelopes to the Iowa 4-H Foundation, Extension 4-H Youth Building, Ames, IA 50011-3630.

## 3% Growth = GREEN HAIR?

The club with the highest % of increase will have their choice of barn at the fair or choice of conference judging time. Also all other clubs who have an increase of 3% or higher will be eligible for a drawing of second choice of barn or judging time.

PLUS if the county meets the 3% increase goal Dan Lane, Tammy Muller, Rita Severson and Sylvia Spykerman will dye their hair green for a day. So if you want to see the entire Clayton County Extension Staff with GREEN hair—join 4-H!



## Club Challenge:

### New Members!

#### Goals:

- (1) 3% enrollment increase  
Clayton County has a goal of 443 members for 2010.
- (2) A new 4-H family in each club  
Clayton County has a goal of 18 new 4-H families



Need a Christmas gift idea?  
How about a 4-H cookbook or 4-H T-shirt?  
Clayton County  
4-H Cookbook  
Over 838 recipes. Published in 2004. \$12 Now on sale for \$10  
Clayton County 4-H T-Shirt  
\$6  
Clayton County  
Clover Kid T-Shirt  
\$6  
Stop by the Extension Office and pick up yours today!  
Supplies are limited!

# Clover Kid News



Information for Clover Kid members, leaders, and parents.

## Attention Clover Kid Leaders & Volunteers:

We will be having a Clover Kid Day planning meeting on Tuesday, November 17 at the Extension Office beginning at 7:00 pm. We will be discussing ideas for the 2010 countywide Clover Kid Day. This year's theme is "Winter Beach Party". Come join the FUN!



## The Month of November is:

- Aviation Month
- Child Safety and Protection Month
- Good Nutrition Month
- International Drum Month
- Latin American Month
- National Adoption Month
- National Epilepsy Month
- National Model Railroad Month
- Peanut Butter Lover's Month



## Craft Idea: CORN PAINTING

### What you need:

- |             |       |
|-------------|-------|
| Indian corn | Pans  |
| Paint       | Paper |

### What you do:

Put paint in the pans and roll the corn in it. If you want a less messy experience – you can use those little corn on the cob holders. Then, take the corn out of the pan and roll it on a piece of paper. Check out the designs!

## The Leaders Corner

Check out the Iowa 4-H Volunteer website:  
[www.extension.iastate.edu/4H/volunteers/](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4H/volunteers/)

Mark your calendar and spread the word!

The 2010 State 4-H Volunteer Retreat will be Friday and Saturday, February 26 & 27, at DMACC in Ankeny.

## Extension Office requests copy of club program and notification of fund-raisers and field trips

As part of risk management, club leaders are asked to keep the Extension Office informed of activities beyond club meetings such as field trips and fund-raisers. A copy of club programs will give an overview of the year. Additions may be shared through a phone call or email to the Extension Office. This helps us know your plans and that you have thought about insurance, adult supervision, and transportation.

## Fundraising

- All fund-raising activities should have prior review from the county 4-H Youth staff.
- All money raised using the 4-H name must be used only for 4-H activities.

Please refer to 4H 71D LDR for more 4-H club financial information.



## Using the 4-H Name and Emblem

The official 4-H Emblem is a clover with four leaves and an "H" on each leaf. The clover's stem must point to the right as you look at the image. The 4-H Emblem is *not* a plain four-leaf clover. The 4-H Emblem should appear in specific colors and in its entirety. The 4-H Name & Emblem belongs to the 4-H Youth Development Program, under the authority of USDA and anyone wishing to use it must obtain permission to use it ahead of time.

**LEADERS:** If your club is creating club shirts, please have your design approved by the county extension office staff.



## Casino Night

The Clayton County 4-H Foundation Board is hosting a "Casino Night" as a fundraiser for the foundation on Saturday, November 28 at Lakeside in Guttenberg from 8-11 pm. Must be 18 years old or older to attend. Spread the word to 4-H alumni! Also we need volunteers to help. Contact a Foundation Board member or the Extension Office to volunteer.

## Market Beef Weigh-In is Saturday, December 19

The annual Clayton County Fair Market Beef Weigh-In will Saturday, December 19 at the Edgewood Livestock Commission in Edgewood from 8:30 am—12 noon. We will also be doing the required retinal imaging for state fair.





## **Advanced Cattle Feeding Project**

*Sponsored by the Clayton County Cattlemen and Clayton County Agricultural Society*

1. A member entering this project shall have only one entry consisting of three steers or heifers purchased and weighed as part of the normal county fair weigh in process on December 19<sup>th</sup> 2010. Pure-bred, grade and crossbred cattle will all be shown in the same class.
2. Special stall cards will be made by the exhibitor having this information: cost of gain/100 pounds; initial weight; purchase cost; average daily gain; total feed costs; total feed cost/calf; weight at exhibition time; costs/100 pounds of gain; yardage costs; breakeven costs.
3. Members may enter more than one advanced feeding project. Entries are due to the Clayton County Extension Office by June 11<sup>th</sup> 2010.
4. Exhibitors must keep accurate feed records. All commodity type feedstuffs will be standardized monthly based on the average month price provided by Innovative Agriculture Services. Participants will still need to report their prices on other products used as well. Standard prices will be provided and must be used on, corn, soybean meal, dry/wet distillers grain, hay, corn silage, and gluten.
5. Exhibitors participating in the advanced cattle feeding project must attend one educational session prior to fair. Date TBD.
6. Judges will appraise the pens at an appointed time at the Edgewood Sales Commission for market acceptability and price. Each animal will be weighed and judged individually and as part of the pen. Additionally the cattle will be scanned and data will be evaluated regarding the animals market readiness. The information will then be used to calculate profitability by the youth.
7. Cattle may be exhibited both as an advanced cattle feeding pen and an individual steer/heifer at the Clayton County Fair.
8. Close outs will be calculated by the youth with producers available for help. All advanced cattle feeding participants are required to be present!
9. A marketing option will be made available through the Edgewood Sales Commission.
10. The Clayton County Cattlemen, Edgewood Sales Commission, Clayton County Agriculture Society

Trophies will be provided by the Clayton County Cattlemen through the Circle of Friends, ribbons and premiums will be provided by the Clayton County Agriculture Society. Awards are based on the following:

- 30 -economy of gain
- 30-\$ return/\$ invested
- 30-records
- 50-market acceptability
- 60-uniformity of pen

Total points 200

The judge will determine the points in each category.

This program is considered part of the Clayton County Fair and occurs prior to the fair because of space and time restrictions at the fair. As a member/parent please consider the time and effort needed to ensure a successful project when entering the Advanced Cattle Feeding project.



## **Spaghetti Dinner & Pizzazz Night**

Pizzazz Night (recognition and awards night) will be held Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup> at Johnson's Reception Hall in Elkader. A spaghetti dinner will be held prior to the program from 5:30-7:30 pm as a fundraiser. Clubs have advance tickets to sell. The award program will begin at 7:30 pm. Record keeping winners, 4-H leader recognition awards and special volunteer recognition awards will be presented that evening. Clubs will also be receiving completion awards and fair premium checks. County Council members will be installed. Make plans to attend this special countywide 4-H event! Let's have all clubs represented!





## Back Page Information

### **PICK A PROJECT PAPER**



4-H Projects provide an opportunity to learn new skills, new ideas, and new information. But unless you choose your projects wisely, you may miss these opportunities and the projects become a burden or are just ignored.

To help you pick what projects you want to carry this year. Start by reading the 4-H Pick A Project Paper. Your leader should give this to you with your enrollment form.

The Pick A Project paper lists all of the 4-H projects available to you with a description of what can be learned.

If you have ideas about what you want to do, but aren't sure what project it goes under, ask your leader or call the Extension Office. Start your year out wisely. Pick projects that interest YOU!



4-H clubs contribute to youth who are caring, competent & citizens of character

- Learning by doing
- Practicing Leadership
- Wide variety of projects
- Positive Out-of-School time
- Science & Arts Enrichment
- Service to Communities
- ... and LOTS OF FUN!



Daylight Savings Ends November 1  
Remember to set your clocks back one hour

### **Planning now will make it easier later on!!!**

**Brainstorming** – this is a great way to help you narrow down what you might want to work on for the year and eventually set a goal to complete this year. Take a few minutes and select a few questions and write down your answers:

- What do I want to learn this year? Do I want to learn a new skill? New technique? Learn about a new project area?
- Is there a project area I worked on last year or a few years ago and want to further your knowledge in it?
- What am I interested in? What are my hobbies? What do I like to do?
- What is something I don't know much about and would like to learn more?
- What have I never done before that I've always wanted to try?

**Goal Setting** - goals are something you can set at anytime during the 4-H year but having clear goals from the beginning will help you stay focused and on track to make sure you finish everything you would like to do and learn. It's like having a road map.

**Good Goals:**

1. Says *EXACTLY* what you want

Goal: *"I want to take pictures"*

Good Goal: *"I want to learn how to take landscape pictures so I can make a calendar for my grandma for Christmas"*

2. Says *WHEN* you want it

Good Goal: *"I want to learn how to take pictures of landscapes and I want to do it while on vacation this summer at Yellowstone National Park"*

3. When you *BELIEVE* it

If you said, "I want to learn to fly like a bird," that's not a good Goal, because you can't believe it, because you know you haven't got wings! But if you say, "I want to learn to hang-glide next summer," then that's a good Goal, because you know that it is possible, so you can believe in it!

4. Says *HOW* you're going to get it done

This is where you write down all of the steps you'll need to do and make a timeline to make sure you get everything done.

**Things to Remember:**

- The more specific you are the easier it will be to stay on track.
- The end result of your goal does NOT have to be an exhibit at the Fair
- If you don't achieve your goal the first time, don't give up, try again
- Check out the Pick A Project Paper for resources you can order on project areas. There helpful and have lots of ideas in them.
- HAVE FUN!!!!

### **The 4-H Motto: "To Make the Best Better"**

The 4-H Motto refers to each member. It means that each member will do the "best" that he/she possible can in whatever is attempted. The member will then strive to improve the next time so his or her initial "Best" becomes "Better". The 4-H motto encourages members to stretch their abilities and capacities to reach greater achievement within their own potential.

# IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

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Clayton County 4-H &  
FFA Family Newsletter



## CLAYTON COUNTY 4-H SPAGHETTI SUPPER



**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2009**  
**JOHNSON'S RECEPTION HALL, ELKADER**  
**SERVING 5:30—7:30 P.M.**



**\$5.00 PER PERSON      \$6.00 AT THE DOOR**  
**CHILDREN 4 AND UNDER FREE**

**FUNDRAISER FOR THE CLAYTON COUNTY 4-H PROGRAM**