



Kossuth 4-H News

NEWS FOR 4-H FAMILIES

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2012

Dates to Remember

(If you need more information about any of the events listed, contact the office at 515-295-2469)

January

- 3 Friends mini grant application due in office
- 12 New member meeting registration due
- 14 Beef weigh in & state verification, 8:30-noon
- 14 ISU 4-H Basketball game at Hilton
- 8-23 National Western Livestock Show, Denver
1- 303-299-5557
- 15 County Council meeting, Ext Office, 5 pm
- 15 Club Officer Training, Ext. Office, 6:30- 8 pm
- 18 Registrations due for Intermediate Co Council
- 18 Extension Council Meeting in Bancroft
- 22 Intermediate County Council, Ext. Office, 2:30 pm
- 22 New Member meeting, Ext Office, 4:30 pm

February

- 1 Applications for State Opportunities due in State 4-H Office – Project Awards, National Congress, National Conference, Tech Team, State Council
- 1 4-H Scholarship applications due at State Office
- 4-5 4-H Lock In, Algona YMCA
- 10-11 State Leaders Retreat, Ankeny
- 12-19 Iowa Beef EXPO, Des Moines (515-885-4322)
- 25 Extension Council Meeting, 7 p.m., Ext. Office

Kossuth County Fair – July 31-Aug. 5



IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
University Extension

Happy New Year to All!

Now is a good time to think about what you would like to do for the current 4-H year. This may include finishing projects from the previous year. Remember to challenge yourself and set goals.

Each new year offers you opportunities to be involved in many activities offered by Kossuth County Extension. Make plans to participate in the workshops, camps, lock-in, state 4-H and youth conference or the new Intermediate county council being offered this year.

There is a lot of information in this newsletter, please read carefully and keep in a safe place! Remember the newsletter can be found on our website or on 4hOnline where you enrolled.

Sincerely,

Jean A. Kent
County Youth Coordinator

Check out the project “hot sheets” that are available to all our 4-Hers and their families at <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/projects>. Lots of great ideas and online resources!!!

The fees for service will be used to off-set direct expenses and to support the 4-H Youth Development County Extension Program.

Happy New Year!

Have you made your 2012 New Year's resolution? A good one for 4-H is to set goals for the new year. Setting goals is simply deciding what you want to learn and do this year. Having goals helps you to achieve and get things done. Goals have three parts: action – how you are going to do it; result – what you will do or what will happen; and time table – when you plan to have it done. It's okay to make changes during the year and it works best to break the goal up into small parts. Goals help you with 4-H award applications, 4-H fair exhibits and other interests outside of 4-H.

Welcome & New Member Meeting

We would like to welcome all new members and their parents to the 4-H program. To help us do this we will be having a New Member meeting at the Extension Office on Sunday, January 22, beginning at 4:30 p.m. The purpose of this meeting is to inform the new member and their parents about all aspects of 4-H and to have FUN! Mark your calendar and make plans to attend! If you have any questions about the 4-H program, please feel free to call the office. Pre-registration will be due Jan. 13. Sometimes we forget that not everyone knows the "4-H way". New member handbooks will be available for all new 4-H families and will help answer some of your questions. They will also be available at the meeting or after that date at the office. Again, you are welcome to contact the office at any time if you have questions or concerns.

Invite a Friend to Join 4-H!

It is not too late to invite a friend to join 4-H. They can join anytime during the year, but must be enrolled by May 1 to exhibit at the 2012 county fair.

Web Site

Check out the Kossuth County web page at www.extension.iastate.edu/kossuth. You will find information for the whole family. For 4-H news, click on Kids & Teen/4-H in the left hand column. We have the newsletter posted at this site so you can look at it anytime. Dates and forms will be posted there also. Instructions for enrolling online are also posted.

State 4-H Website

www.extension.iastate.edu/4h - This is a great tool for 4-H members, prospective members, families and volunteers. They will continuously be updating the information in this site, so check it often. There are even games to enjoy as well as great opportunities that 4-H offer. Check out the project pages for more information on the projects you want to try!

Are you an officer in your club?

Calling all club officers! Holding an office in your Club is a great learning opportunity! The Extension Office wants to help you become a better officer and help you have better club meetings by offering **Club Officer Training**. This will be held on Sunday, Jan. 15th at 6:30 - 8 p.m. at the Extension office in Algona. Plan to come and bring others from your club.

4-H Enrollment

If you have not enrolled yet, go to this website for directions. We would like everyone enrolled soon. <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/Enrollment/help.htm> Signing up for project is optional but we really encourage livestock project sign up due to information sent during year (like weigh in notices, fair concerns, etc.).

County Council events coming

County council are planning Lock-In for Feb. 4, and a bowling event mid March, and Communication Day in April. The Winter Festival will not be held this year. I will let Org. leader know the dates when confirmed; watch the next newsletter for more details.



Intermediate County Council

Jean would like to start an intermediate County Council using the "Ricochet" curriculum - which is a EXCITING leadership program sponsored by ISU-Extension. The name "Ricochet" simply means that leadership opportunities may present themselves in many different ways. We will plan to explore leadership opportunities in fun and interesting ways and get actively involved in the community. We will plan the first meeting on Sunday, January 22 at 2:30 p.m., snacks will be provided. The group would meet about 8-10 times a year. If you are in grade 7-9th grade and would like to be a part of this group, please contact Jean by January 18. Hope you will come and bring your friends!

2012 Fair changes

As you know we try to only make major changes to the fairbook every other year but we are making some minor changes at your request - **Dairy** class dates will be adjusted to be more in line with state dates. Also we are going to look at a pilot dairy heifer class. If you are interested in knowing more about these dairy changes; check with Jean. Details are being worked out at this time. Sheep – Purebred market ewes will have the option to NOT be slick shorn for the wool breed animals

Beef Weigh-In & State Verification

The weigh in and state verification is Saturday, Jan. 14 from 9 – 11:30 at the Algona Livestock Auction & Exchange. If you want to show market beef at the state fair, you must come to the state verification at \$5 charge per head fee. You will also need to be enrolled in 4-H and must verify your SF entry online within two weeks. Remember 2nd year bucket calves need to come and you can also bring your breeding heifer in to be ID and you will not have to do that in May. You must be enrolled in 4-H by the online process before weigh-in.

For Ak-Sar-Ben it will be an additional \$6 per head and forms require both exhibitor and parent signature. Contact the office **before** weigh in for the form if either the parent or exhibitor cannot attend.

Dates to Remember enclosed

Keep this handy during the year. Write all important dates on your yearly calendar. Not all dates will be repeated in the newsletter.

Record Keeping Forms on the Web

On the 4-H website, "Just for Members" page, <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4H/memberresources.html> are posted the eight most common recordkeeping forms as Word documents, allowing members to fill out those forms entirely on the computer, then print them for their record books when complete. Those documents are also still available as PDF documents on the pubs website at: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/pubs/yo.html>.

COOL and 4-H Livestock

What 4-H'ers Need to Do:

The Iowa COOL Coalition has come up with a simple affidavit that can work for all species of livestock (beef, sheep, swine, poultry, goat). This affidavit is located at: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4H/Agriculture/documents/cool.doc> Page 1 explains the steps needed to be taken as well as example documents that can be used for an audit trail. Page 2 is the actual affidavit. **4-H'ers who raise their own livestock** for their projects need to fill this affidavit out and keep it on file for a minimum of two years. In the case of an audit, 4-H'ers can provide authorities with this affidavit along with other documents listed at the bottom of page 1 of the affidavit document (birth records (calving report, PigChamp, PigTales, etc.), purchase/sales receipts, etc.)

4-H'ers who purchase their livestock from others

MUST have the producer fill out the affidavit, give it to the 4-H'er, and the 4-H'er should keep the affidavit on file for a minimum of two years. For example, a 4-H'er goes to buy his steer from a producer. The 4-H'er needs the producer (seller) to fill out and sign the affidavit.

North Central Iowa Youth Beef Conference

An educational program sponsored by Iowa State University Extension and Ellsworth Community College for Iowa Youth involved with beef production will be held Saturday, January 28, 2012, at the Ellsworth Agriculture and Renewable Energy Center, Hwy 65 south, Iowa Falls, Iowa. The youth program will run from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. with registration beginning at 9:00 a.m. A variety of interactive workshops and sessions are being planned for youth 4th grade through high school who register for this event. Topics include: Beef Health and Diseases; Creating a Beef Promotion; and Comparing and Evaluating Ground Beef. There is no cost for youth to attend and a noon lunch will be provided. Parents are welcome to stay. Please pre-register by January 20. Registrations must include the Iowa 4-H Medical Information/Release Form. For more information contact the Franklin County Extension Office at 641-456-4811.

Chaperones Needed

Adults are always needed to help chaperone 4-H events. We are in need of chaperones for the Lock In, Kossuth camps, the Iowa 4-H and Youth Conference, as well as other events. Contact the Ext. Office if you are interested or would like more information.

FSQA Training & new changes

If you are planning to show livestock inside or outside of Kossuth County, you MUST have FSQA (Food Safety Quality Assurance) certification. The big change last year was changing from age to grade. Those who are in 6th grade or younger, must take the training yearly. Those who are grades 7-9 by Jan. 1, you will have the option of testing out or attending the training yearly. Those who are grades 10-12 can come to the training, but we encourage you to try to test out. If you test out, you will not have to test or go to the training again. Check your certification to check your expiration date. (Look at your online enrollment information, underneath your name it will tell you when your certification expires.) You have four options to attend training this year. All training will be held at 7 pm except April 9 will be 2 pm.

March 13 – Palo Alto Co. Extension

April 9 – Kossuth Co. Extension -2 pm

May 31 – Kossuth Co. Extension

Palo Alto will schedule one mid May but date not available at this time

If you want to take the test, just call the office to set up a time with Jean.

4-H/Youth Equestrian Helmet Program

Remember all 4-H related horse events across the state of Iowa require the use of ASTM/SEI approved protective headgear with chin strap and properly fitted harness when mounted and riding and driving -- every time, every ride.

4-H Responsibilities

Being a good club member is a very important role. If you have decided to be a 4-H member, there are responsibilities that are attached to your decision. One is that you should attend meetings on a regular basis. Your attendance gives support to your 4-H club, plus lets you have an active role in the club.

Shooting Sport Club Activities

Shooting Sport Club is getting started again and we would like you to become part of the group if you are interested in archery, rifle or shotgun disciplines. For more information about the club contact Kris Laubenthal, (515-341-0730).

4-H Events Interviews

Watch the next newsletter for 4-H event interview information. All 4-H'ers in grades 8-12 should consider participating in these beyond the club events being held this summer. Interviews will be tentatively held March 25 at the Extension Office.



Photo challenge fair class

The theme for the photography challenge class! This year the subject matter is "New Life" New members might want to get details on this fair exhibit class online or ask your leader. Remember this photo cannot be enlarged for this class.

Lock In

The Kossuth Lock-In will be held in **Algona** at the YMCA on Saturday, Feb. 4. Registration will be held from 9:45 – 10 p.m. and Lock-In will begin at 10 pm. and conclude at 5:45 a.m. the following morning. The 4-H County Council is planning many fun activities. This will be open to 4-H members only. Please make sure your enrollment forms are in the office. Registrations are due Feb 10. You must be a 4th grader or older to attend. A letter with details will be sent to all participants.

State Recognition and Trips

Get more involved in 4-H and expand your horizons! If you are a ninth through twelfth grader, there are many opportunities available to you for recognition awards or to represent Iowa in upcoming conferences on the state and national levels. These include: National 4-H Conference (for 9th- 11th grade); National 4-H Congress (for 10th-11th grade); State 4-H Council (10th-11th grade); Iowa Youth Technology Team (9th-11th grade); National 4-H Dairy Conference (9th -12th grade); and State 4- H Project Awards (9th-12th grade). Contact your county extension office to find out more information about each of these awards or trips. If you would like to apply, a packet of information is available on line at www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/teens/awards.htm or at the Extension Office. The state selection process for the above opportunities will involve: completing an application form including 5 short answer questions; gathering and putting together 2 pages of written support material (see the application for format); an interview at the state level. The application deadline is February 1. The state interviews are scheduled for Mar. 24 in Ames.

2012 Iowa 4-H Scholarships

Information is now available on the 2012 Iowa 4-H Scholarship Program. As a high school senior, you may be eligible to apply for one or more of the 4-H scholarships awarded to 4-H'ers who will be college freshmen in the fall of 2012. If you are planning to continue your education next year, please check with us about available 4-H scholarships, eligibility requirements, and the application process. **It is important to check eligibility carefully. Some scholarship programs have specific college major, place of residence, and/or participation requirements.** There are opportunities for students pursuing any course of study, as well as some specific agriculture and home economics scholarships at both four-year and community colleges in Iowa. More than 100 scholarships totaling over \$100,000 will be awarded to Iowa 4-H'ers. If interested, you will need to complete a special 4-H application, transmittal form, secure two letters of recommendation per instructions, and attach a current grade transcript of your school records through fall 2011. 4-H Scholarship information, forms, and applications are available from the Office or on the Iowa 4-H public web page: www.extension.iastate.edu/4H/teens/scholarships.htm. The completed application, including two letters of recommendation and current grade transcript, must be received on site or postmarked no later than February 1 for consideration. We suggest you plan ahead, allowing time to carefully complete the application materials.

Cattlemen Scholarship

The Kossuth County Cattlemen are again offering a \$500 scholarship to graduating seniors. The applicant must be a resident of Kossuth County, but may attend a high school out of the county. The applicant must also be enrolling in an ag-related field (very broad field) in college. Contact your school or the Extension Office for an application. Deadline is March 1.

Hixson Scholarship

We have information in our office for the Hixson Scholarship. This scholarship is awarded to one student per county. If you would like to attend ISU and have faced challenges of personal and/or financial hardship, you may qualify for the Hixson Scholarship; applications are due Feb. 1.

4-H Day at the ISU Women's Basketball Game

The Iowa 4-H Foundation is hosting a 4-H Day at the Iowa State Cyclones Women's basketball game versus **Texas A&M** on **Saturday, January 14th, 2012** at Hilton Coliseum in Ames. Tip-off is at 7:00pm. This event is open to anyone and everyone, even if you're not a 4-H'er! The pre-game tailgate will be held at Scheman with a meal from 4:30-7 PM. For more details or to order tickets and submit t-shirt sizes here: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/explore/isuwbb> Questions – email Shelly Greving at shellyg@iastate.edu.

Brighten Your World!:

Iowa 4-H Youth Conference June 26 – 28

Attention all 4-H'er's, grades 8-12! Come and experience the Iowa 4-H Conference held at ISU in Ames. You will be able to attend workshops and participate in community service. Or would like to attend animal science round-up and choose various animals such as sheep, beef, dairy, horse or swine to study. Have fun in the evenings going to a formal banquet at Hilton Coliseum, dances, swimming, and a picnic. During the 3 day conference, experience dorm life and make new friends from across the state. If you have friends you would like to invite, 4-H enrollment not required – bring them along! Contact the office for more information. If you interview on March 25, we will pay half your fee to attend.

Pork Queen Contestants wanted

The Kossuth County Pork Producers are seeking pork queen contestants. Girls in 11th & 12th grade who have parents that are Kossuth County Pork Producers members are eligible to apply. Winner

will receive a scholarship. Contact Dave Bjuström, 884-2365 by Feb. 15 for more details.

Clover Kids

We will be offering a Clover Kids program for any 2nd & 3rd graders in the county Saturday morning in March. Fliers will be sent to schools, but contact the office if you have someone interested for more details.

District Fair change for Pocahontas County

2012 Pocahontas County Fair will be open to 4-H/FFA members in the counties surrounding Pocahontas again this year (BV, Clay, PA, Kossuth, Humboldt, Webster, Calhoun, Sac) we will honor weigh-in papers and ID papers from any of the Extension Offices, but if a child would like their animal (beef, sheep, derby pig) to compete in the rate of gain contest THEY MUST WEIGH IN DURING OUR COUNTY WEIGH-IN. We do NOT want this to be a hassle for any other county staff. If your 4-H'ers have any questions have them contact our office 712-335-3103. Our beef weigh-in is Saturday, January 7. They must pre-register to attend. IF your weigh in is on the exact same day we will honor those weights, WE WILL NOT TAKE ANY WEIGHTS FROM ANY OTHER DATE.

Winter Sports Activities

With all the snow (?), tis' the season for 4-H club sledding and skiing trips. There are two things clubs need to remember for proper insurance and risk management coverage. Contact Jean for details.

State Leaders' Retreat Registration Available

The 2012 State Volunteer Retreat scheduled for Friday and Sat., February 10 & 11, centrally located at the DMACC facility in Ankeny. The retreat will bring together 4-H volunteers, staff, parents, and intermediate and senior 4-H members to network and learn about innovative programs that will help bring fresh perspectives and activities to Iowa 4-H programs. Friday evening is a networking/fellowship type gathering with hands-on activities. Workshops and networking fill the day on Saturday, February 11. A wide variety of workshop sessions will meet the needs of both new and experienced volunteers, staff, and 4-H'ers. The registration cost is \$10 before 1/20 or \$15 after that date. Contact the Extension Office for more information on this great event. If you plan on going, we will car pool rides and will pay \$10 of your registration cost.



KOSSUTH COUNTY 4-H LOCK - IN



**SATURDAY-SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 4 & 5, 2012**

9:45 p.m. to 5:45 a.m.

Algona YMCA

4-H'ers Only

\$15.00

(includes pizza and pop!)

- Dodgeball
- Swimming
- Basketball
- Racquetball
- Movies & Games
- Fun!



Bring your own swimsuit,
towel and gym clothes.

Reservation Deadline - Jan. 24

4-H Lock-In – Feb 4 & 5

YMCA in Algona

Due: Jan. 24

____ Sign me up. My \$15.00 fee is enclosed.

Name _____ Grade _____ Club _____

Address _____ Town _____ Phone _____

Email: _____

Emergency Contact-Name & Number _____

Conditions or concerns staff should be aware of: _____

My son/daughter has my permission to attend the all-night event at the Algona Family YMCA.

Signed _____
(Parent or Guardian)

**Send to: ISU - Kossuth County Extension
1121-B Hwy. 18 East
Algona, IA 50511**

____ I would consider being a chaperone for the night. Chaperones are at no charge!!
(If we do not get enough chaperones, we will not offer the event.)