



# Clover Leaflet

Volume 06, Issue 9

August 31, 2006

# SEPTEMBER

## 2006 4-H News



### Is Fall here already?

The state fair is over and school has started, surely fall is not far away. With the cool days we have of late, it certainly feels like fall is in the air. The 15-day forecast suggests a high of 81, so we may be in for a cool fall to start a new 4-H year.

4-H Week is coming up the first week of October, so September is the time to plan for some events. Don't forget to choose your club's activity for Fall Fest and LET US KNOW what it is.

**LEADERS**—Mark 9/28 on your calendar. We have a good agenda. Bring some ideas to the meeting for the coming year.

*Glen Easter*

Glen Easter  
Clarke County Extension Education Director

**September 13th**—4-H council Meeting, 4 p.m., Extension Office

**September 28th**—4-H Leader Meeting, 7 p.m., Extension Office.

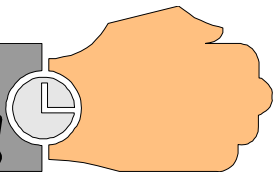
**September 29th** - 4-H Record books due into the Clarke County Extension Office.

**October 5th**—Fall Fest, 7 p.m., United Methodist Church-Osceola.

**October 11th**—4-H council Meeting, 4 p.m., Extension Office

**December 15th** - Deadline for getting enrollments (new and re-) into the Clarke County Extension Office.

It's  
Time!



## For Re-enrollment

## Don't Forget to Pick Up Your State Fair Exhibits

If you have not picked up your State Fair Exhibits, please do so. Our office is open 8:30 to 4:30. If you need to come at 5 or after, call the office, I am often here until or after 5 p.m. But call first to make sure I will be here.

## 4-H Leader Meeting, Sept. 28th

4-H leaders will not want to miss this meeting! This will be our first meeting of the new 4-H year. We will meet at 7:00 p.m. at the Clarke County Extension Office.

Agenda items include:

- Meeting our new Youth Field Specialist
- Fundraising idea
- Suggestions for the 2007 Fair
- Leader Background Checks
- How to handle fees for this year, last year's approach did not work well at all.
- 4-H Leader Training for the coming year
- 4-H Committee Meeting Schedule for 06-07



## New Youth Field Specialist for Clarke County

Southwest Area Extension Education Director, Alan Ladd, has announced the hiring of a new Youth Field Specialist to serve in Clarke, Decatur, Lucas, Ringgold and Wayne counties of south-central Iowa.

Karen Ostlie Pattison, a native of Montevideo, Minnesota joins Iowa State University Extension after 12 years with the University of Minnesota Extension Service. There she managed a county 4-H and youth program and also worked in the field of natural resources and the environment. Pattison is herself a former 4-H'er, participating in activities at the local, state and national levels. She holds a BS from the University of Minnesota in Natural Resources and Environmental Studies with an MS in Education.



Pattison and her husband, Gregg, make their home in Lamoni where he is a private lands biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Pattison takes over the position formerly held by Heidi Bell and will be housed at the Clarke County Extension office in Osceola. She can be reached by telephone at 641-342-3316 or via email at [kpatti@iastate.edu](mailto:kpatti@iastate.edu).

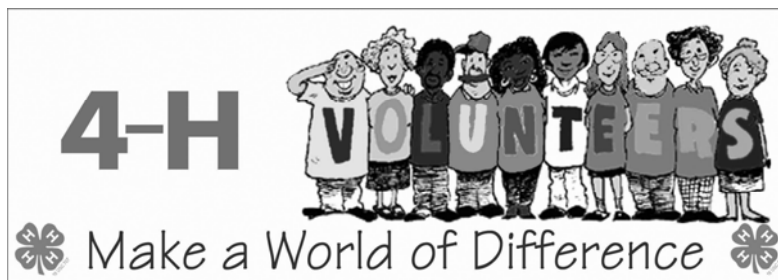
## Background Checks for Club/Project Leaders

One of the strengths of Iowa 4-H is the background checks required of 4-H leaders. Leaders spend a lot of quality time with our members and thus background checks are not only a great idea, but required. **Any leader that takes an active leadership role with a club or project area must have a background check.** As we move into the new 4-H program year, I will be reviewing our list of leaders that we have background checks on and calling on those we are missing. The process involves the leader completing forms that we send to the Iowa Highway Patrol for a driving record check and the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation for completion of the background check. This is at no expense to the leader. The Clarke County Extension Council pays the fee of \$5.

In general I determine who needs a background check as who is listed as the club leader or who is taking an “**active**” role in the leadership of a club or project. “**Active**” is the operative word here. Others can have a background check as well, but we must have checks on our “**active**” adult leaders.

This applies in the same way with our county-wide project areas. This past year we started the Shooting Sports project area. Leaders Shifflett, Webb and Liskens had to complete the background check. As other parents have stepped up to assist in the Shooting Sports project, we have done background checks on them as well. So I will be checking our leaders with our dog, beef, and sheep projects as well as other project areas that may be organized on a county level.

Iowa 4-H is known as a safe environment in which kids can grow and develop. Completing our background checks is one way to keep it safe. **If you know you need to get the background check completed, stop by our office and pick up the forms. Otherwise, I will be calling on you.**



## Fall Fest 2006

The 4-H Council will once again help organize Fall Fest. Fall Fest is our annual county-wide 4-H recruiting activity. **Each Club will be asked to provide a booth about 4-H. Fall Fest will be the evening of October 5th at the Osceola Methodist Church at 7 p.m.** The program should last about an hour. During 4-H Week and prior to the 5th, 4-H Council representatives will visit our two county elementary schools, talk about 4-H, and invite them to Fall Fest.

**Once your club chooses an activity, let the extension office know. That way we can keep track and avoid duplication.**



## **2007 Exhibit Building Idea**

It is the Fair Board's intention to have the new 4-H/Community Building up and ready to go for the 2007 Clarke county Fair. Having our 4-H exhibits back on the fairgrounds will be fantastic. Figuring out how to arrange them will be a new but fun challenge. Will our space be square or rectangular or a combination of shapes.

At the leader meeting on September 28<sup>th</sup>, I would like for the leaders to consider the following idea. As a "one year" alternative to our traditional system of exhibiting, we would have booths and exhibits done separately. The booths would be created by teams of 4-H/FFA members based on an overall theme known in advance. The exhibits would be exhibited separately in their state fair categories. For example, all photography would be exhibited together, all food & nutrition together and so on.

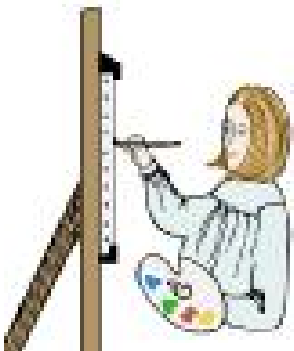
The booth contest would center on teams of 4-6 youth. A Club or Chapter could have as many teams as they could field. Each team would receive the same box of materials and equipment to construct their booth. Each team would get a standard 8 foot table with accompanying wall space. With the theme known in advance, each team could bring whatever display items they want, but all of the items must fit into a 12" wide X 15" long X 10" tall box (with lid squarely on) obtained at the Extension Office. Each team would have 3 hours to develop their booth display, say 5-8 p.m. No adult leaders would be allowed in the room. A team of entirely Junior 4-H members could have one Intermediate or Senior team member. Any other combination would create a team of its oldest member's category. Booths would then be judged in categories of Junior, Intermediate and Senior.

Junior members are grades 4-6, Intermediate members are grades 7-8, and Senior members are grades 9-12 as of January 1 of the year of the fair. Clover kids and pre-4-Hers would not participate in this type of booth contest.

Teams would have to register for the contest by June 1 so we could get the materials and equipment organized. Team members must all be from the same 4-H Club or FFA Chapter.

Clover kids and pre-4-Hers would participate as usual in bringing exhibits to the fair.

**If you have another idea, bring it to the leader meeting on September 28<sup>th</sup>. Whether we continue to exhibit as we have or change is up to the leaders present at the meeting!**



## **Missing Items from the Clarke County Fair**

The Eddy family is missing a red handled scoop (one was left in its place, but it was not the Eddy's) and one black extendible show stick. Contact Brian Eddy at 641-414-1964 if you have information about the missing articles.

## Time to Recruit for the New Year

August brings our fair season to a close and a new school year. This means it is time to think about a new 4-H year and time to recruit new members. Work with your 4-H leaders to locate and enroll new members.

There are many activities for young people to choose from in our community today ...help make 4-H Clarke County's first choice.



## National 4-H Week — October 1-7

Time to start planning activities for National 4-H Week, October 1-7. Activities to consider are window displays, radio spots, attending religious services as a Club, all of a club's members wear an official 4-H shirt to school the same day, etc. The activity can be a club-based program or a community-based program to let everyone know about 4-H. It is an excellent time to celebrate the past year and get fired up about the new year.

Over the years window displays have diminished. If such a display interests your club, now is the time to contact businesses for permission. Keep in mind that the extension office can be contacted for a display as well. Our east window pane and west window are definitely available for a club to use during 4-H Week.

As mentioned previously, Fall Fest will be the evening of October 5th at the Osceola Methodist Church. Once your club chooses an activity, let the extension office know. That way we can keep track and avoid duplication.



**Let's Let All Clarke Residents Know about 4-H**

# My Annual Reminder to Parents and Leaders: Avoid Gender Bias in Project Selection



Consumer & Management is for girls.  
Tractor is for boys.  
Computer are for geeks.  
Entomology is for boys.  
Pets could be for both.



Talk about crazy assumptions!

Such thinking assumes that boys will never select their own clothes or cook their own meals or balance their own check book. And, girls will never identify insects or maintain machinery. Computers are for everyone, just as pets are.

**Don't let gender bias affect your project selection.**

**Choose projects that prepare you for life.**

**Choose projects that are FUN!**



## Making Choices.....

As you review the choices (there are 64 project areas):

- Talk with your parents about which project would be good for your family. **Is the project family oriented?**
- Select projects based on your interests and ability. **Will you have fun doing the project?**
- Pick at least one project that will be useful later in life. For example: food & nutrition or horticulture or clothing decisions. **Is it a skill you can use later in life?**

Begin with the end in mind. **What would you like to exhibit at the county fair? Would the project lend itself to creating an exciting educational presentation or working exhibit?**

## Time to Start a New 4-H Council Year

Our September agenda will be a review of our upcoming 4th grade visits in each school during National 4-H Week. Fall Fest is scheduled for October 5th at the Osceola United Methodist Church.

It is also time to organize our new, 06-07 4-H Council. Each club can have two council members. If your club has over 20 members you may have three. If club representation is not filled, then other eligible 4-Hers may apply. To be eligible you must be in the 7th Grade or older and must have completed one-year of club work. You must plan to be active in your 4-H Club and on the Council.

If we are fortunate enough to have a club with more older (high school) age members who wish to be an active member of the 4-H council than the guidelines allow, we will work to involve them. The Council needs active, energetic members.

Please notify the Extension Office once your 06-07 Club's 4-H Council members are selected. Thus, we can send them a reminder of the **first 06-07 meeting , September 13th at 4:30 p.m.** at the Extension Office.



## High School 4-H Teens Can Apply for Area Council

High school age 4-H members who are interested in helping develop 4-H and youth programs on an area level are encouraged to apply for the 2006-07 area council. Although not a formal requirement, we would like for you to be active on the 4-H Council as well. Teens who are interested in: meeting new friends from other counties; developing leadership skill; getting ideas to take back to their county will want to apply.

An overnight retreat will be held in November. Later youth will meet in county clusters to plan a variety of events and activities. Each county may have two youth on the council. The youth are selected from a simple application which is available at the Extension office. Applications are due September 25th at the Clarke County Extension Office.

A fall retreat is planned for Nov. 11-12, most likely in Corning . If area council youth want another overnight retreat they will plan one in the winter. Many of the young people who responded to our area council questionnaire indicated they were interested in volunteering at State Fair. Next August we will plan on overnight retreat at the State Fair and provide an opportunity for the group to volunteer at State Fair.

Area Council youth will serve on planning committees based geographically on where the Youth Field Specialists (YFS) are housed. Each YFS will be responsible for a group of young people who will decide and plan on an event in their local area. This will decrease travel time and hopefully increase commitment from the young people.

Clarke County Extension  
Iowa State University Extension  
154 West Jefferson Street  
Osceola, Iowa 50213-1286

## **Record Books Due**

It is time to look back and take note on the past year. Your 4-H Record Book allows you the chance to do just that. Each Clarke County 4-Her is highly encouraged to complete their record book.

**All record books are due in the Extension Office by 4:30 p.m. September 29th.**

Past record books are extremely handy your Senior year in high school when you begin filling out scholarship and awards applications and need that information from the past. Your 4-H Record Book is your lasting record for your hard work and accomplishments.



## **State Fair Creeps Earlier Each Year**

The Iowa State Fair started on the 10th of August this year. It should start moving the other way in 2008.

**For 2007, the dates are August 9-19.**