

# Clover Leaflet

Volume 06, Issue 12

November 30, 2006



## Thanks Clarke County for Supporting Our Local Extension Program

One might say that Thanksgiving and Christmas came early this year. With the referendum passing, we can move forward with maintaining and expanding our extension programming. When successfully passing any tax initiative, any margin of victory is excellent. Our 52.8% positive vote was excellent. I want to thank the Friends of Extension, our Extension Council, our 4-H Leaders and members, and our two Vocational Agriculture/FFA programs for their assistance in passing the levy.

**Thanks!!!**

*Glen Easter*

Glen Easter  
Clarke County Extension Education Director

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

**December 20th** - Retirement Reception for Joyce Branson. 1-4 p.m. Extension Office. Plan to drop by during the afternoon.

**January 6th**—Beef Weigh-In, 9-Noon, Fairgrounds. Snow date is January 13th.

**January 25th**—4-H Leader Training Meeting, Extension Office, 7 p.m.

**February 4th**—Dog Classes Start, Osceola Vet Clinic

**February 7th & 15th**— FSQA, See page 3.

**March 12th**--FSQA, See page 3.

**April 4th**— FSQA, See page 3.

**April 7th**—Swine Weigh-In

**May 4th**-Sheep & Goat Weigh-In

**Another early Christmas gift is to have all of the enrollments in by December 15th!!**



## **Beef Weigh-In is Scheduled for January 6**

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The 2007 Clarke County Fair beef weigh-in will be January 6, 2007, 9-Noon at the Fairgrounds. The snow/ice date is January 13th, 9-Noon.

Remember that you **must weigh-in all of your market animals (beef, swine, sheep and goats) in Clarke County** at the appropriate weigh-in date and location. No transfers from other counties are accepted. If unable to make the weigh-in, someone else must weigh the animal in and bring the proper affidavit to the weigh-in.

Also remember that **if you plan to show at the Iowa State Fair and/or Aksarben you must get a nose print and DNA sample taken.** There is a fee for this. The day will most likely be cold and hectic. Although you will be asked 2-3 times, you must remember to complete the proper forms and pay the fee if you plan to show at the Iowa State Fair and/or Aksarben! There will be signs posted to remind of all this.

**Pick up the forms and ear tags in advance.**  
**Have your calves tagged and forms completed before the 6th.**

This speeds the process up enormously.

**Don't forget to get your ear tags! Our office will be closed December 25, 26, and January 1st!**  
**Plan accordingly!**

## **Retirement Reception for Joyce Branson**

At the end of the year Joyce will wrap up 25+ years with Clarke County's Iowa State University Extension Office. That adds up to a zillion questions answered. Questions about 4-H enrollment, fair entries, flowers, bugs, canning, trees, sewing, livestock, what ifs and why not's..... The list is endless. Not to mention the usual, typical things that an office assistant does in any office.

We are planning a reception for Joyce on December 20th, 1-4 p.m. It is a come and go reception with refreshments and cake available. Do plan to stop by. Joyce's last day in the office will be December 29.

**Join us to celebrate 25 years of  
Service to Clarke County.**



## **FSQA Training Time Again—Register Early**

The **Food Safety Quality Assurance (FSQA)** programs will certify 4-H youth for beef, pork, dairy (cattle and goats), sheep, poultry, meat goats, and rabbits in 2007.

With FSQA, junior exhibitors (9-11 years of age) will need to be certified each year. Intermediate (12-14) and Seniors (15-18) will be able to test out if they choose to. The program is age driven as of January 1, each year. Testing out is good for the period the exhibitor is an intermediate member or senior member. This means that if you test out your first year as an intermediate, the certification is good for the three years you are of intermediate age. Then, if you successfully retest again your first year as a Senior member, you will be certified for the three years you are a senior member. Once you turn 19, the system will kick you out as a youth and (even though you might still be in high school) you must certify as an adult. Testing out is not an available option to junior members.

**Please note the age specific groups, we will adhere to the age limits. The training sessions will be adapted to the age group. Registration is required. There is a maximum of 15-20 4-Hers per session.**



Training will be conducted in Clarke County on the following dates:

- 2/7 Jr. Exhibitors, Osceola, American State Bank, 7 p.m.
- 2/15 Int./Sr. Exhibitors, Murray High School Vo- Ag Room, 7 p.m.
- 3/12 Int./Sr. Exhibitors, Clarke Community School, Vo-Ag Classroom, 3:30-5:30 p.m.
- 4/4 Jr. Exhibitors, Osceola, American State Bank, 7 p.m.
- 6/13 Clarke County Test-Out, Osceola, Extension Office, 1 p.m.

I will schedule a different test-out time for a group of Int./Sr.'s.

## **Pioneer Grant Brochure, Application, and Information on Web**

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/PioneerGrants.html>

**The Club applications are due into the Clarke County Extension office by December 15th.** The County Director must make comments on the club applications. These comments are very important to state committee members who review the applications and decide which are funded. Applications are then due in the State 4-H Office by Monday, January 8, 2007. With the Christmas/ New Year’s holiday season in the middle of all this, the December 15th deadline is important so Glen’s comments can be added and the application be into state by January 1.

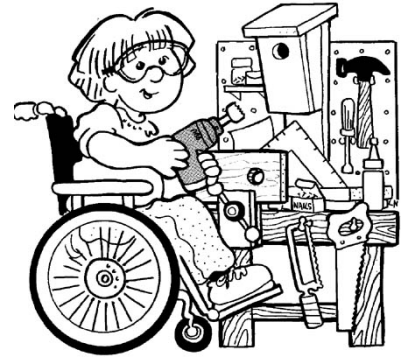
## **2007 Clarke County Fair Schedule**

Pre-Fair Leader/Training Meeting, June 28<sup>th</sup>.  
Fashion Review and Clothing Selection on July 10<sup>th</sup>.  
New Member Walk-Around, July 10<sup>th</sup>.  
Communications will be on July 12<sup>th</sup>.

Queen Contest and Style Show on July 15<sup>th</sup>.  
Booth Contest is tentatively July 16<sup>h</sup>  
Exhibit Building Judging on July 17<sup>th</sup>.

Large animals arrive on the evening of July 18<sup>th</sup>.  
Fair runs from the 19<sup>th</sup> through the 23<sup>rd</sup>.  
Fair Sale is the evening of the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Exhibits for the State Fair to Ext. Office by August 3<sup>rd</sup>.  
Hardy baked items by August 6<sup>th</sup>.  
Freshly baked items by 7:30 a.m., August 7<sup>th</sup>.



## **Dog Obedience Classes Are Scheduled To Begin**

The 2007 Dog Obedience Classes will begin February 4, 2007. The classes will be located at Osceola Vet as in the past. Have all of your dog's shots up to date before classes begin.

We will include more information in our next newsletter and the leaders will also be sending more information later. If you have questions, please contact Ronda Schrodt at 447-2346, Leslie Dorland at 342-3021 or Nancy Crabtree at 449-3290.

## **Volunteer Leader Training for 2007**

Our first training session and leader meeting will be held January 25<sup>th</sup>, 7-9 p.m. at the Clarke County Extension Office. This training is required for our club and project leaders.

As a club leader, you are a key to our 4-H program. In your volunteer role, you are making a significant contribution to our communities by helping young people grow and develop in positive ways. All 4-H club leaders and project leaders (such as dog, horse, beef, shooting sports and sheep) will be required to participate in two volunteer training opportunities throughout the 4-H year.

The leader training portion of this meeting will focus on:

- creating safe environments for kids,
- how to prevent the disease *lacks of focus communicato*, and
- how to create an extraordinary learning opportunity for club members and families.

## **Volunteers Light the Path to the Future!**

The State Leaders' Retreat for 2007, Lighting the Path to the Future, is scheduled for February 9 and 10.

The retreat is located at the DMACC facility in Newton. Friday evening is a networking/fellowship type gathering with hands-on activities and is free except for the costs of the craft materials. Workshops and networking fill the day on Saturday, February 10.

The retreat is open to all volunteers, staff, parents, and intermediate and senior 4-H members. A wide variety of workshops sessions will meet the needs of both new and experienced volunteers, staff, and 4-H members. The early registration cost for Saturday is \$25 (by January 19th) . Late registration is \$30. Registration includes lunch and breaks.

Skill topics include: networking, bird feeders, toothbrush weaving, paper crafts, food safety, fund-raising, tips for working with youth groups, using youth leadership, emergency preparations, leader training module, ecology & the environment, horse'n around, home maintenance, biking, sewing, money craze, goats, camping, shooting sports, cooking and much more.

A registration form and more detail to the skill session can be picked up at our office or found on the web at <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4H/volretreat.htm> .

Those who have attended this annual training have always had good things to say about it. We realize time and distance is a concern. If you have the time and do not mind traveling to Newton for the training, this can be a very worthwhile weekend event.

## **FSA** **Developing Tomorrow's Leaders**

FSA is the bridge that helps rural youth grow both personally and professionally in preparation for becoming tomorrow's leaders in agriculture.

**Youth Loans up to \$5000. Use to purchase feeder livestock, breeding stock, equipment, crop inputs and more.**

Qualifications:

1. Must be a U.S. Citizen
2. Be between 10 and 20 years old
3. Live in a town of less than 10,000 people
4. Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised 4-H project or FFA program of work

For more information contact your local FSA office at 342-2162.

## **Re-enrollment Procedure**

Each member (family) please complete the re-enrollment forms you received in the October newsletter. If yours is missing or you need more forms let us know or ask your leader.

- Complete the 4-H Re-Enrollment form  
    Make sure the current information is correct!  
    Choose your projects for 2006-2007
- Complete the Iowa 4-H Medical Information/Release Form front and back.

Bring the forms and \$10 per member to the Extension Office (SW corner of the square in Osceola).

Each 4-H'er gets two 4-H project publications free. Additional publications must be purchased. Prices are listed in the "Pick A Project" paper available from your leader or at the Extension Office.

Any member having trouble paying the membership fee or for publications, talk to your leader about assistance.

