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ISU Extension News Release:

Cerro Gordo County 4-H Members and Leaders Receive Awards at the 2009 Awards Banquet

The 2009 Awards Banquet for Cerro Gordo County 4-H was held November 1 at 5 pm at the Clear Lake United Methodist Church in Clear Lake. 4-H members, leaders, and families enjoyed a meal prepared by Carolyn Coe and family followed by the Awards Program.

The **4-H Alumni Award** and the **Honorary Member Award** are two special awards given to two adults who have donated time and commitment to the 4-H program.

Jody Grant is the Cerro Gordo County 4-H Alumni Member for 2009 (Picture 1). Jody is a leader for the Grimes VIP 4-H Club. She has been a leader for 23 years. Jody was a 9 year member of the Grimes Go-Getters 4-H club where she was active in beef, horse, clothing, and food and nutrition. According to her daughter, Jody brought her children with her to all her 4-H meetings and called them "future 4-H'ers."

Jackie Vaughn was selected as the Cerro Gordo County 4-H Honorary Member for 2009. Jackie was a founding leader of the Bits & Spurs 4-H Club and continued to lead the club for 10 years until last year. Jackie was a 4-H leader in Laramie, Wyoming, for ten years prior to moving to Iowa. Although Jackie was not a 4-H member herself, she has become a loyal 4-H supporter and friend through her children's 4-H membership and her leadership for many years.



Picture 1: (L to R) Gail Castillo presents Jody Grant with the 4-H Alumni Member Award.

The **Award of the Clover** is given to recognize 4-H club leaders tenure in the program (Picture 2). Without the dedication and support of our leaders, we would not be able to have a program in the county. They are the people who help to guide our members, answer questions, and donate an extremely large amount of time, energy, enthusiasm, and knowledge. For that – we thank you!



Picture 2: (L to R) Jody Pals-Gold Award for 10 years of service, Bart Pals-Emerald Award for 25 years of service, Allen Nickerson-Pearl Award for 15 years of service as 4-H leaders.

Service Above Self Award – Every year the top senior award in Cerro Gordo County is the Northwoods State Bank Service Above Self Award (Picture 3). This award goes to one male and one female 4-H member who has gone above and beyond to serve their clubs, their communities, and their county 4-H program, as well as participating in state events. Their names are engraved on a plaque that hangs in the 4-H Learning Center. They also receive a \$250 award.

Eric Quade, son of Bob and Nancy Quade of Mason City was a 9 year member of the Mason City Challengers. He participated in visual arts, shooting sports, and photography among other project areas. He was active in community service activities, as a club officer, and on the County Council. He is enrolled at NIACC in the Automotive Technology program, and plans to become an ASE certified auto mechanic.

Brittany Jurgemeyer, daughter of William and Karon Jurgemeyer of Rockwell was an 8 year member of the Rockwell Busy B's. She participated in many activities such as Junior Camp Counseling, Teen Council president for two years, was a member of the 4-H ambassadors, was on the State 4-H council, and also participated in project areas such as sheep, communications, and citizenship. She is currently enrolled at ISU majoring in animal science.



Picture 3: Matt Sturges (left) presents Service Above Self Awards to Eric Quade and Brittany Jurgemeyer.

The **Chicago Trip** is awarded to those senior 4-H members who are currently in their junior or senior year of high school (Picture 4). 4-H youth from all over North Iowa go on this all-expense paid trip together over Thanksgiving weekend. To be eligible for this award, a member must show participation within their local 4-H club, participation in 4-H projects and activities, and personal growth through 4-H. This year three youth from Cerro Gordo County will be spending Thanksgiving weekend in Chicago. The Chicago Trip Award winners are McKenzie Hanna-Marken, Morgan Lawson, and Courtney Sherwood.



Picture 4: Chicago Trip Award winners (L to R): McKenzie Hanna-Marken, Courtney Sherwood, and Morgan Lawson.