

ISU Extension-Calhoun County
521 4th Street
P.O. Box 233
Rockwell City, Iowa 50579
712-297-8611

January 2009

Dear Calhoun County:

Wow, another new year is upon us. The weather has been manageable; however, as winter weather comes, listen to KTLB - 105.9 radio for any weather-related cancellations or changes with Extension events.

The Calhoun County 4-H/FFA beef weigh-in will be held at the Calhoun County Expo Fairgrounds in Rockwell City beginning at 7:30 a.m. on Saturday, January 3rd. The snow date is the following Saturday, January 10th at the same time.

Other dates to put on your calendars include:

Swine Weigh-in – March 14th from 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. (Snow date – March 21st)

Sheep Weigh-in – April 25th from 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Calhoun County Expo – July 8th to 12th.

I want to repeat from last month that using the above weigh-in dates and the anticipated weigh-in dates at the 2009 Calhoun Expo, the days on feed for the three species of livestock should be 186 days for beef, 109 days for swine, and 74 days for sheep. Please use these days on feed when planning your purchase of Expo animals.

Sac County is again going to host “Area Livestock Shows” for 4-H and FFA youth in neighboring counties as part of the 2009 Sac County Fair. Please contact Jill in our office if you want additional details. She will forward them to you when they are available.

Since we are discussing livestock, two Food Safety and Quality Assurance Programs are scheduled for Calhoun County. The first will be Saturday, January 24th from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. and the second is planned for Saturday, May 2nd from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. This program is designed to help our livestock exhibitors understand their responsibilities with their livestock projects as they enter the food chain.

Have a Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

Jerry W. Chizek
ISU - Calhoun County Extension Education Director

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4-H News

January 2009

Movie Night at the Extension Office

Tuesday, December 23rd at 5:00 p.m. is movie night at the Extension Office for 4-H members and their friends in grades 4-8. We will be watching Charlotte's Web (the live version). Pizza and pop will be served. You may bring a favorite pillow, bean bag chair, etc. to relax in.

Pre-registration is required by Monday, December 22nd. This event will be canceled if pre-registration is too low. To register call the ISU Extension office at 712-297-8611 or email jmims@iastate.edu. Cost is \$2.00 per person. Come and enjoy some down-time with fellow 4-Hers.

Dog Project

If you are interested in joining other 4-H members in a dog project club, please contact the ISU Extension- Calhoun County office by December 31st. The focus of this group will be on training dogs for dog obedience and agility.

4-H License Plate

Support 4-H across the state with the new 4-H license plate. The Iowa 4-H Foundation has applied for an official 4-H license plate, but in order to create this special designed plate, 500 pre-paid orders must be submitted by July 14, 2009.

To purchase your 4-H license plate, fill out the application form found online at www.iowa4hfoundation.org. License plates are \$35 for numbered plates and \$60 for personalized plates. Send application and payment (check/money order) to:

Iowa 4-H Foundation
4-H License Plate
3630 Extension Bldg, ISU
Ames, IA 50011-3630

Once 500 pre-paid applications have been received, the plate will be made and all checks will be processed at that time. This is an excellent gift idea for 4-H teens, parents, leaders, alumni, volunteers or staff. Sign up today so that you can reserve your personalized plate. *(Note: license plates will not be ready by Christmas, but you may give the recipient a notice that it is on its way!)*



Beef Weigh-In

Beef weigh-in is just around the corner. Weigh-in is scheduled for Saturday, January 3, 2009. 4-H and FFA members with a last name that begins with the letters M-Z will weigh-in their animals from 7:30-9:00 a.m. and those with a last name that begins with the letters A-L will weigh-in their animals from 9:00-10:30 a.m.

Winter in Iowa can be unpredictable. If the weigh-in needs to be canceled due to the weather, a decision will be made by 6:00 a.m. on January 3rd. The snow date is set for Saturday, January 10, 2009 at the same times. Listen to radio station KTLB 105.9 for announcements.

The cost for an ear tag is \$1.50 per animal for those animals being weighed-in for the Calhoun County Expo. To nominate an animal for the Iowa State Fair the cost is \$5.00 per animal. Retinal imaging will be done on those animals. To nominate an animal for Ak-Sar-Ben this year, the cost is \$5 per animal and DNA samples will be collect along with nose prints.

Purebred steers for State Fair and Ak-Sar-Ben must have a legible tattoo in their ear (preferably in the left ear). The breed, tattoo, and sire name or registration number must be recorded on the verification form. This information should be brought with you to the weigh-in.

If you have questions or concerns, please call the ISU Extension- Calhoun County office at 712-297-8611.

COOL and Premise ID's

It is important for all livestock exhibitors to be aware of the current regulations for COOL (Country of Origin Labeling) and Premise ID numbers. Information can be found at <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4H/Agriculture/index.htm> or by calling the ISU Extension office.

As far as the 2009 Calhoun County Expo, exhibitors need to get signed affidavits from the person they purchase their livestock from. An example of this document can be found at <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4H/Agriculture/documents/cool.pdf>. Exhibitors need to keep the affidavits for a minimum of two years. When exhibitors bring livestock to the Expo, they will be required to fill out Animal Care & Management Disclosure statement for the animals they bring. This statement will be kept on file at the ISU Extension- Calhoun County office for a minimum of two years. A Care & Management Disclosure form for Market Beef is included in this newsletter.

Although Premise ID numbers will not be mandatory at the 2009 Calhoun County Expo, it is recommended that exhibitors get one. The Sac County Fair and the Clay County Fair are requiring premise ID numbers.

If you have any questions about COOL or Premise ID requirements please call the ISU Extension- Calhoun County office at 712-297-8611.

Food Safety Quality Assurance

4-H and FFA members wishing to exhibit beef, sheep, swine, dairy cattle, dairy goats, meat goats, rabbits and/or poultry at the Calhoun County Expo, Iowa State Fair, Clay County Fair or Ak-Sar-Ben MUST have a current FSQA certificate. Training and testing is scheduled for Saturday, January 24th from 10:00 a.m. to noon. FSQA training qualifications are by age not grade.

All youth who plan to exhibit any of the above mentioned animals and are 9-11 years old by January 1, 2009, will need to attend the two-hour FSQA training. Youth 9-11 must attend this training each year.

All youth who plan to exhibit any of the above mentioned animals and are 12-14 years old by January 1, 2009, will have the option of attending the two-hour training or testing out. If you choose to test out, you will not have to attend training or test out again until you are 15 years of age.

All youth who plan to exhibit any of the above mentioned animals and are 15-18 years old by January 1, 2009, will have the option of attending the two-hour training or testing out. If you chose to test out you will not have to attend training or test out again until you are 19 years of age.

If you turn 19 before January 1, 2009, you will need to get certified through a training program.

Please call and register for training or to test out by Friday, January 23rd so that materials can be prepared. If you have questions on your certification status, please call Jill Mims at the ISU Extension- Calhoun County office at 712-297-8611.

Legislative Day- An Old Event Made New

There are several exciting changes to the Legislative Day event this year! A committee has been formed at the State 4-H office to reinvent and reinvigorate the old Legislative Day event into something more fun, engaging, and educational. The first big change is a change in name; the old Legislative Day will now be called "The Power of Youth, Iowa 4-H." But what is being done is more than just a name change, the event is being entirely overhauled and refocused to make it into a premiere leadership learning experience for our 4-H'ers. For this reason this event will be directed primarily at our Intermediate aged 4-H'ers (7th and 8th grade). Hopefully this will allow our junior high aged youth to get an early start on the leadership experiences that will be a little more accessible to them once they become senior 4-H'ers.

Each county office will be allowed to bring up to four 4-H'ers who are interested in learning about leadership. These 4-H members need to be willing to work hard to represent their county and communicate the impact 4-H has in their community. The event will be on Tuesday, March 31, 2009. If you are an Intermediate 4-H'er and you would like to be considered for this event, please contact ISU Extension office at 712-297-8611 or jmims@iastate.edu by Monday, January 5, 2009.

North Central Iowa Youth Beef Conference

An educational program sponsored by Iowa State University Extension for Iowa youth involved with beef production will be held Saturday, January 24, 2009, at Ellsworth Community College, 1100 College Ave., Iowa Falls, Iowa. The program will run from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. with registration beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the T&I Building.

A variety of interactive workshops and sessions are being planned for youth 4th grade through high school who register for this event. Topics include: Journey through the Rumen and Beyond & Feeds and Ration Evaluation; Behind the Meat Counter; Speak Out for Beef; and Cattle Behavior & Handling.

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 16, 2009 at ISU Extension- Calhoun County office.

College Scholarships Available for Seniors

The Iowa 4-H Foundation announced the 2009 scholarship program for 4-Hers attending or planning to attend college fall 2009. More than 90 scholarship programs totaling nearly \$100,000 may be awarded. The various awards range in amounts from \$500 to \$3,200. Some of the scholarships are open to students pursuing any field of study, while others are open to students pursuing degrees in agriculture, food and nutrition, ag business, animal science, and journalism. Former Iowa 4-Hers and current 4-Hers graduating from high school are eligible participants.

4-H scholarship information has been sent out to all graduating 4-H members. The information will also be available on the web at www.extension.iastate.edu/4H/grants.html in PDF and Word format so you can download the application and type directly on it. Please call the ISU Extension office at 712-297-8611 if you have questions.

Applications are due before or on February 2, 2009 to the State 4-H Office in Ames.

Transportation Writing Contest

Go!, an online magazine for teens published by Iowa State University's Center for Transportation Research and Education (CTRE), is sponsoring a writing contest for all writers ages 16 and up. Submissions should focus on some aspect of transportation and be appropriate for teens and young adults. The goal of the contest is to encourage writers and readers to think about how integral transportation is to our everyday lives. Transportation encompasses roads, rail, air, and sea. Deadline for submission is Jan. 15, 2009. Send entry to:

Michele Regenold, Go! Editor
Center for Transportation Research and Education, ISU
2711 S. Loop Drive, Suite 4700
Ames, IA 50010,

The Go! magazine writing contest guidelines are available as a PDF at:
<http://www.go-explore-trans.org/Go-writing-contest-flyer.pdf>

Northwest Area Recognition

Have you ever thought about 4-H on a larger level? There are so many statewide and national opportunities waiting for you! Check out some of these...

- **National 4-H Conference:** Delegates attend workshops and discuss issues to suggest future programming for 4-H on a national, state and local basis. Delegates meet with federal legislators on Capitol Hill to discuss the impact of 4-H in their area. Delegates stay at the National 4-H Center in Chevy Chase, Maryland.
- **National 4-H Congress:** Congress delegates participate in workshops, keynote sessions, cultural field trips and community service. Congress develops leadership skills of youth by involving them as partners in planning and implementing the program.
- **State 4-H Council:** State 4-H Council exists to strengthen Iowa's total 4-H program. Members serve as ambassadors and partners with 4-H staff for planning, implementing, and evaluating 4-H programs. This council provides a significant leadership opportunity for older 4-Hers beyond the area and county levels.
- **Iowa Youth Technology Team:** This team will be made up of teens from around the state who are interested in information technology. Members will learn marketable technology skills, participate in community service, experience cutting-edge technology (virtual reality, etc.), work with experts from around the country and gain access to the latest technology tools. Members will be delegates to the Iowa 4-H Youth Conference.
- **State Project Awards:** State project awards are part of the 4-H incentives and recognition programs that are provided to motivate you to participate, learn and evaluate their 4-H experiences. Recognition opportunity is available in all project areas. \$100 Savings Bonds will be awarded to State Project award recipients.

If you are interested in taking advantage of any of these opportunities, more information can be found at <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4H/recognition.htm>. Applications will be due to the ISU Extension- Calhoun County Office by Feb. 9, 2009. We'd love to have more youth from Calhoun County being recognized for the awesome things that you are already doing in the 4-H program!

Growing Green at the State Volunteer's Retreat February 6-7, 2009

Growing Green is the theme for the 2009 State Volunteer Retreat scheduled for Friday, February 6th, and Saturday, February 7th, 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 and is free except for the costs of the craft materials. Workshops and networking fill the day on Saturday, February 7th.

A wide variety of workshop sessions will meet the needs of both new and experienced volunteers, staff, and 4-H members. The registration cost for Saturday is \$25 and includes lunch and breaks.

Think about attending this retreat. It's a great opportunity to pick up ideas to grow your 4-H club. Registration materials will be coming soon.

VOYAGE TO GREATNESS: Iowa 4-H Youth State Conference

Attention all 4-Hers, grades 8-12! Come and experience the Iowa 4-H Youth Conference held in Ames at Iowa State University on June 30th through July 2nd. You will be able to attend workshops and participate in community service. Or, maybe you 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 three-day conference, experience dorm life and make new friends from across the state. You don't have to be in 4-H to attend, so if you have friends you would like to invite – bring them along!

Watch the 4-H Focus for more details about the Iowa 4-H Youth State Conference.

Holiday Closings at the Extension Office

Please take note of the following days that the ISU Extension- Calhoun County office will be closed due to the holidays:

December 25 & 26: Christmas Holiday

January 1: New Year's Day

January 19: Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Dates To Remember

December 23rd- 4-H Movie night at the ISU Extension- Calhoun County office from 5:00- 7:00 p.m.

December 25th and 26th- ISU Extension- Calhoun County office closed for Christmas

January 1st- ISU Extension- Calhoun County office closed for New Year's Day

January 2nd- County Council outing

January 3rd- Market Beef Weigh-In

January 10th- Snow date for Market Beef Weigh-In

January 19th- ISU Extension- Calhoun County office closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day

January 24th- FSQA training and test out at the ISU Extension- Calhoun County office at 9:00 a.m.

January 24th- Youth Fishing from 1:00- 3:00 p.m. at the Rockwell City Recreation Area

February 2nd- 4-H Scholarship applications due to the State 4-H Office in Ames

February 6th through 7th- State Volunteer's Retreat in Ankeny

February 9th- Northwest Area Award applications due to ISU Extension- Calhoun County office

March 14th- Market Swine Weigh-In from 8:30- 10:30 a.m.

March 21st- Snow date for Market Swine Weigh-In

April 25th- Market Sheep Weigh-in from 8:30- 10:30 a.m

April 25th- Youth Fishing from 1:00- 3:00 p.m. at the Rockwell City Recreation Area

June 30th through July 2nd- "Voyage to Greatness: Iowa 4-H Youth Conference in Ames

July 8th through July 12th- the Calhoun County Expo

