

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

February 2009

Dear Calhoun County:

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped with the beef weigh-in on January 3<sup>rd</sup> in Rockwell City. We had great help as we weighed 103 head of market beef that day from 40 exhibitors. This is 38 head MORE than we weighed in at the same time in 2008. Thank you to the 4-H and FFA members and their parents for their support and help.

Just a reminder as we look ahead to both the swine and sheep weigh-ins. The swine weigh-in is planned for Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup> and the sheep weigh-in is scheduled for Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>. According to the fairbook, all animals need to be born **January 1<sup>st</sup>** or later of the current year. If this is followed, chances are good that there will not be 80-pound hogs coming to the weigh-ins. There are weight guidelines, not rules, to follow for the swine with a range of 15 -65 pounds. Know the date of birth and weight of the animals before you purchase them. There is no minimum or maximum weight for the lambs coming to the weigh-in as long as they were born **January 1<sup>st</sup>** or later of the current year. The days on feed should be **116** days for swine and **74** days for sheep. Please use these days on feed and an anticipated rate of gain with your animals when planning your purchase of Expo animals. Remember when buying animals for your livestock project, ask the sellers for an affidavit to be in compliance with the Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) rules. A copy of the affidavit is enclosed in this newsletter.

The swine show will continue being a terminal show with all animals being sent to market on Monday, July 13, 2009.

Something new for 2009 is an opportunity to be involved in a broiler project being initiated through the Extension office. More details are included in this newsletter.

Lastly, concerning the 2009 Calhoun County Expo, the fairbook and all rules will be posted on the web for people to download at their convenience. Families that need "hard copy" materials for the various shows can still contact the Extension office for those printed materials.

Spring is just around the corner!

Sincerely,

Jerry W. Chizek  
ISU - Calhoun County Extension Education Director

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## 4-H News

February 2009

### **County Sewing Workshop**

Would you like to learn how to sew? Come join us at a sewing workshop where we will learn to sew a simple project. These workshops are designed for beginning sewers and will focus on indentifying the parts of a sewing machine, how to wind a bobbin, how to thread a machine, and basic sewing skills. 4-H members will sew 2 potholders, one to keep and one to donate. If time permits, they will also work on goal cards.

Cost of the workshop is \$10 which includes all materials and lunch. Several dates are available that correspond with no-school dates for each school district. Class size is limited to 6 so register early. To register call the ISU Extension- Calhoun County office at 712-297-8611 and give your name and the date you plan on attending. Dates and times are Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup>; Monday, February 16<sup>th</sup>; Friday, February 20<sup>th</sup>; or Friday, February 27<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

### **DATE CHANGE for Food Safety and Quality Assurance Training and Testing**

The previously scheduled Food Safety and Quality Assurance (FSQA) training and testing for May 2<sup>nd</sup> has been changed to **Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>** from 9-11 a.m. at the ISU Extension- Calhoun County office. Please call the Extension office at 712-297-8611 to pre-register by Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup>.

If this date does not work with your schedule, contact Jill Mims at the Extension office as soon as possible and she will tell you dates for trainings in surrounding counties.

### **Spring Leaders Meeting**

The second mandatory leaders meeting for the 2008-2009 4-H year will be on Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 p.m. at the ISU Extension- Calhoun County office. All 4-H Leaders must attend the two mandatory meetings each year so please put this date on your calendar now and plan to attend.

### **Thank You to Clubs for Holiday Cards**

This year over 80 clubs across Iowa helped share the Christmas Spirit with over 2,000 4-H friends and supporters by sharing their creative talents with some of the most beautiful and creative cards the Iowa 4-H Foundation received. The 4-H Foundation would like to thank all those who helped with this project; you touched the lives of many!

If your club missed making cards this year and would like to as a community service project, it's not too late! Every year the Iowa 4-H Foundation sends out home-made birthday cards to many of our supporters, donors, and important advocates for the 4-H program to help show our appreciation for their generous gifts.

Making cards can be a great activity for all ages of 4-H youth. Hand-drawn with pens and markers, pasted together with cut-out construction paper, or assembled with stamps and scrapbook materials, these cards show the creativity and skill of today's 4-H members. To help keep postage costs low, cards that are equal to the size of a normal sheet of paper folded in quarters (approximately 5 ½ by 4 ¼ inches) with envelopes are preferred, however all cards (of any size) received will be shared with 4-H supporters. It's often a nice touch for 4-H members to put their club name and county on the back of the card.

Cards may be dropped off at the ISU Extension-Calhoun County office and we will get them to the Iowa 4-H Foundation.

### **Northwest Area Recognition**

Applications for National 4-H Conference, National 4-H Congress, State 4-H Council, Iowa Youth Technology Team, and State Project Awards are due to the ISU Extension- Calhoun County Office by Feb. 9, 2009. Contact Jill Mims at 712-297-8611 if you need assistance with your application.

### **Summary of 4-H Exhibit and Communication Changes**

Work on the fairbook is still underway but here are some changes you may want to be aware of:

Go The Distance – The name of this special exhibit class has changed to “Live Healthy Iowa”

4-H Poster Communications Exhibits – the themes for 2009 are:

- a) 4-H is...”(open to 4-H’ers interpretation)
- b) Join 4-H
- c) “Voyage to Greatness” (2009 Iowa 4-H Youth Conference theme)
- d) “4-H Time” (2009 Iowa State Fair theme is “State Fair Time”)

State Fair Communication Events dates – The dates for the Northwest Area are August 14, 15, 19, 20. Extemporaneous Speaking will be on August 23.

The \$15 Challenge –Outfits must be purchased at a garage sale, consignment store, or resale shop (i.e. Goodwill, Salvation Army, or other stores of this type). Hand-me-downs or clothing as gifts that were selected by the 4-H’er belong in Clothing Selection, not the \$15 Challenge.

State Fair Clothing Event dates – The date for the Northwest Area is August 14.

The Photo Challenge: 4-H’ers in Action – One photo will be selected to be exhibited at the Iowa State Fair. This photo is for exhibition only. It is not a competitive event and photo will not be evaluated.

### **“SCORE” With Your Posters**

**Simple:** Put 1-2 basic points on each poster.

**Color:** Use color for emphasis or variety.

**Organized:** Make your points easy to read and follow.

**Readable:** Use a broad tip marker; letters are easier to read.

**Educational:** Only use a poster when it helps explain a point more clearly.

### **Avoid these Poster Faults:**

- More than one theme.
- Too “busy”, too many and /or scattered pictures or words.
- Material not relevant to topic.
- Message becomes lost.

### **Other Pointers:**

- Write large.
- Use the broadest tip pen available. It will be easier to read and easier to use in lettering.
- Use color for variety and emphasis. However, color combinations that clash, create annoyance with the audience, and interfere with clear perception of the message, should be avoided.
- If using more than 5 words, use both capital and lower case letters, not just capital letters.
- Use plain, vertical letter style except where emphasis or emotional impact is desired.
- Space areas between letters adequately. Use 1 1/2 letter width between words and 3 letter widths between sentences.
- Illustrations should be at least 1/4 the size of the overall area unless they are extremely simple.
- Margins should be larger on the bottom and equal on the other three sides.

### **Green America Awards By Nature Hills Nursery**

The Nature Hills Nursery Green America Awards have been created to give national recognition and \$5,000 in plants to community groups and organizations which are improving their local environments. The award will be presented annually, beginning in April 2009, to groups and organizations that are literally “greening” their communities, parks, schools and public spaces by planting trees, shrubs and other plants, according to Nature Hills Nursery, which sponsors the award. The Grand Prize winning project will receive \$2,500 in plants from Nature Hills Nursery, while the First Prize and Second Prize winners will receive plants worth \$1,500 and \$1,000, respectively. The plants can be any combination of trees, fruit trees, bushes and shrubs, perennials and vegetable seeds that the nursery offers.

Applications for the Nature Hills Nursery Green America Award will be accepted nationwide until April 1, 2009. The winners of the 2009 Green America Award will be announced on April 17, 2009. To

apply for the 2009 Green America Awards online, visit the website at:  
[http://www.naturehills.com/green\\_america\\_awards.aspx](http://www.naturehills.com/green_america_awards.aspx).

#### **4-H Day at the Cyclone Women's Basketball Game**

Looking for a fun 4-H club trip? The Iowa 4-H Foundation will be hosting a 4-H Day at the Iowa State Women's basketball game versus Kansas on Saturday, March 7, 2009, 7:00 PM at Hilton Coliseum in Ames. This is the last home game of the season and senior night! Cost is just \$10 per person which includes admission to the game, a drink, hotdog, and an exclusive Cyclone 4-H t-shirt.

One game not enough? There is a men's basketball game at 12:45 PM that same day versus Texas Tech (however, this game is not included in the promotional offer). This is a great way for a club to get together and head to Ames for a day of 4-H and Iowa State Basketball. All 4-H youth, volunteers, leaders and alumni are invited to attend at the discounted price. 4-H promotions will be held throughout the game with a variety of events and activities.

Don't miss out on this exciting event! Go to <http://www.ticketmaster.com/promo/t16bgz> Click on FIND TICKETS. Select the number of tickets under IOWA 4-H PROMOTION. Enter code IOWA4H to receive the discount. If you are attending with your club, notify Shelly Greving at [shellyg@iastate.edu](mailto:shellyg@iastate.edu) or call (515) 294-1607 and you will be recognized as a group attending the game.

#### **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](http://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.



### **Summary of Iowa State Fair (ISF) Livestock Changes**

All Species - Fitting done by immediate family member only. This includes parents (mom, dad, step-parent, or legal guardian), brother, sister, step-sibling.

No coaching from or near the show ring – verbal or non-verbal. Violators will be escorted from the arena.

Beef – NO artificial tails will be allowed.

All commercial heifers will be required to have a tattoo in order to exhibit at the ISF or AkSarBen. It will need to be on your ID sheet by May 15. NO fresh tattoos will be allowed at the ISF. If re-tattooing is necessary in order to read it, the Extension Office must be notified and verify the re-tattooing so they can confirm it with the state office.

Horse – For the ISF substitution horses will be allowed ONLY if they are identified on the 4-H'ers ID form that is due at the local Extension office on May 15 and ONLY if they are for the exact class you entered. You will need to contact the state office by July 25 if you plan to substitute a horse.

Walk/Trot will be combined into one age group. If you enter Walk/Trot the ONLY other riding class you may enter will be Showmanship.

The same horse CANNOT be identified by more than one 4-H'er UNLESS it is the ONLY horse the family has for all of their 4-H'ers. If a 4-H'er identifies a leased horse, that is the ONLY horse they can identify.

Swine – At check-in, a number will be painted on each pig. This number MUST be legible upon entering the showing or you won't show.

There will be NO weigh backs for derby pigs.

All farrowing dates for purebreds will go by the date on the registration paper if there is a conflict with the date on the ID form.

Sheep – State staff are adjusting the formula for performance data.

Purebred registration papers must be presented at the time of check-in – NO copies or faxes will be accepted.

Meat Goat – Both wethers and does will be allowed to show in this class.

Dairy Cows and Goats – The cards you used to fill out with entry will now be mailed to the exhibitors after the state fair office has received the entries. The exhibitors will then bring the cards with them to check-in.

### **New Broiler Class**

A new Broiler class is being proposed for the 2009 Calhoun County Expo. The Broiler class will be an opportunity for a 4-H member to gain valuable experience in raising chicks to market weight.

Basically, 4-H members need to return the enclosed "intent to participate" form by April 1st and the Extension office will order the birds for the group. The cost will be \$21.00 for 25 Cornish Rock straight run (both males and females) chickens. All birds will come from the Welp Hatchery and be delivered to the Extension office around Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>. 4-H members will need to feed and care for the birds and keep production records. Members will select five birds to exhibit as a pen at the Expo and may only show one pen of five.

If you would be interested in participating in the new broiler class please contact the ISU Extension- Calhoun County office at 712-297-8611 or mail back the intent to participate form. Watch the newsletter for more details.

### **VOYAGE TO GREATNESS: Iowa 4-H Youth State Conference**

Attention all 4-Her's, grades 8-12! Come and experience the Iowa 4-H Youth Conference held in Ames at Iowa State University on June 30<sup>th</sup> through July 2<sup>nd</sup>. 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 this newsletter for more details about the Iowa 4-H Youth State Conference.

### **Dates To Remember**

February 9<sup>th</sup>- Northwest Area Award applications due to ISU Extension- Calhoun County office  
February 13<sup>th</sup>- Sewing Workshop from 9-3 at the ISU Extension- Calhoun County office  
February 16<sup>th</sup>- Sewing Workshop from 9-3 at the ISU Extension- Calhoun County office  
February 20<sup>th</sup>- Sewing Workshop from 9-3 at the ISU Extension- Calhoun County office  
February 27<sup>th</sup>- Sewing Workshop from 9-3 at the ISU Extension- Calhoun County office  
March 14<sup>th</sup>- Market Swine Weigh-In from 8:30- 10:30 a.m.  
March 21<sup>st</sup>- Snow date for Market Swine Weigh-In  
March 22<sup>nd</sup>- County Council from 6-8 p.m. at the ISU Extension- Calhoun County office  
April 1<sup>st</sup>- Broiler intent form due to the ISU Extension- Calhoun County office  
April 6<sup>th</sup>- Spring Leaders Meeting from 6-8 p.m. at the ISU Extension- Calhoun County office  
April 18<sup>th</sup>- FSQA training and testing from 9-11 a.m. at the ISU Extension- Calhoun County office  
April 25<sup>th</sup>- Market Sheep Weigh-in from 8:30- 10:30 a.m.  
April 25<sup>th</sup>- Youth Fishing from 1:00- 3:00 p.m. at the Rockwell City Recreation Area  
May 15<sup>th</sup>- Livestock ID's are due to the ISU Extension- Calhoun County office  
June 15<sup>th</sup>- Small animal ID's are due to the ISU Extension- Calhoun County office  
June 15<sup>th</sup>- Fair entry forms are due to the ISU Extension- Calhoun County office by 4:30 p.m.  
June 22<sup>nd</sup>- Clothing and Communication events judging  
June 30<sup>th</sup> through July 2<sup>nd</sup>- "Voyage to Greatness: Iowa 4-H Youth Conference in Ames  
July 1<sup>st</sup>- Iowa State Fair entries for livestock and horticulture are due to the ISU Extension- Calhoun County office  
July 8<sup>th</sup> through July 12<sup>th</sup>- the Calhoun County Expo

