

# IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

University Extension

## ***Benton County 4-H Family Connection***

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### **What's inside...?**

Calendar

Club Pizza Party  
Winner!

Weigh-In Dates for  
2008-09 4-H Year

Beef Weigh-In A  
Success!

2009 Cloverbud  
Meetings set for  
Benton Community  
area & Vinton

Legislative Day  
2009

Managing Money  
in Tough Times

4-H Volleyball  
Tournament

FSQA Training  
Dates

Cyclone Horse  
Judging Camp

2009 State Fair  
Updates

4-H Day @  
Cyclone Women's  
Basketball Game

Waterloo  
Blackhawks  
Welcome 4-H'ers!

*"4-H is a community of young people across America  
who are learning leadership, citizenship and life skills."*

### **Club Pizza Party Winner!**

Thank You to all of the clubs and their members who got their enrollments turned in by January 2. After everything was entered, the numbers were tallied and the club with the most new members is ... (drum roll) ..... the Iowa Ever Readies! They had a total of **10** new members!!! In 2<sup>nd</sup> place is the Leroy Luckies with 7 new members. The Iowa Ever Readies will have a pizza party delivered to their club meeting courtesy of Benton County Extension Education Director, Linda Fischer. Congratulations!

### **Weigh-In Dates for 2008-09 4-H Year**

Please mark the following important dates on your calendars. All weigh-ins will be at the fairgrounds unless otherwise noted. Times for FFA/4-H will be announced closer to the event. :

Derby Swine Weigh-In/Heifer Tagging --- Saturday, March 28, 2009,  
8-10 a.m. derby swine & 10-11am heifer tagging.

Sheep Weigh-In --- **Saturday, May 9, 2009 \*NEW date!\*** starting @ 1 p.m.

State Fair SWINE Weigh-In --- Monday, April 27, 2009 @ Titan Machinery,  
Blairstown, 3:30-5p.m.

### **Beef weigh-in a success!**

With Mother Nature on our side with the weather, we had a great beef weigh-in! There was a grand total of 166 head that were weighed. Of those 166 head, 25 head were nominated for state fair and 5 head were nominated for Ak-Sar-Ben. Beef numbers are down from last year's weigh-in but not by much. Each livestock area has years of increase and decrease for numbers. It's expected to have more heifers at the March tagging. There were 25 head that were tagged in March 2008 so it will be interesting to see if that number is still high or not.

## **4-H Cloverbud Clubs organizes in Norway & Vinton**

Do you know of a Second or Third Grader interested in joining 4-H? Organizational meetings have been set for the 2009 Cloverbud Program. Cloverbuds is open to all Second and Third Grade age children and is specifically designed to introduce kids to what 4-H is like through this pre-4-H experience.

- The **Benton Community area** Cloverbud Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup> from 1:30 to 3:00 PM at the Norway Elementary School Art Room.
- The **Vinton area** Cloverbud Meeting will be held on Monday, February 2<sup>st</sup> from 6:30 to 8:00 PM at the US Bank Community Meeting Room located at 414 A Avenue in Vinton.

There will be monthly meetings through June and also a chance to exhibit at the Benton County Fair in July. Questions about the program can be directed to the Benton County Extension Office in Vinton at phone: 319-472-4739. Pre-registration is recommended, though not required.

## **Legislative Day 2009 – Thursday March 12, 2009**

**Title:** 5 County Legislative Trip (Benton, Iowa, Poweshiek, Marshall & Tama)

**Date:** Thursday, March 12, 2009

**Grades:** 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Graders

**Activity:** Bus trip to Des Moines, Tour of Judicial Bldg, State Capital and Dome, lunch with Representatives and a visit to Iowa's Hall of Pride in the Hy-Vee Hall

**Cost** \$20

\*\* Please watch your mailbox as further information with registration will be coming in the next few weeks. \*\*

## **Managing Money in Tough Times**

Our current economic situation can lead to added stress and anxiety about our family financial situations. Iowa State University Extension has lots of informational resources to help guide you through these challenging times. The ISU Extension Website, <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/> has many informational resources on managing money, dealing with a financial crisis, managing stress and dealing with loss. There are lots of tips and ideas to help families through tight financial times. There are even ideas for teens to consider! Check it out! In addition, for farmers, I would encourage you to go to the Agriculture Decision Maker website: [www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm) Many of the popular farm production cost and business decision making publications are there along with downloadable spreadsheets to allow you to explore different financial scenarios for production input costs and revenues.



## **4-H Volleyball Tourney**

The 2009 Volleyball Tournament has been set for March 15 at the Washington Middle School in Vinton. Information will be sent out to leaders at the end of January. There are 3 brackets for members to play on – Junior, Intermediate and Senior. Contact your leader if you are interested in playing on a team. Club team sign ups are due to the Extension Office by **February 27** in order to give county council members time to set up the game brackets, make posters and send out cards to club leaders for their team starting time(s).

## **Benton FSQA Training Dates**

ALL swine exhibitors and ALL state fair exhibitors are **REQUIRED** to have FSQA training in order to exhibit. Contact Michelle or Linda at the Extension Office with any questions.

**Thursday, April 9 @ 10 am – 12 pm** (no school day for both Benton Comm. and V-S schools)

**Thursday, May 21 @ 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm**

There are classes available in other counties. Dates and places will be in the February newsletter.

## **Cyclone Horse Judging Camp**

What: A 3 day camp for youth interested in horses and horse judging

When: June 11-13, 2009

Where: Iowa State University Campus

Who: Youth ages 12 to 18 years interested in horses, judging

Camp fees will include on-campus housing, food, instruction and evening fun! Register by May 15, 2009! For registration and forms: <http://www.ans.iastate.edu/faculty/index.php?id=nikkif>

For questions: Contact Nikki, [nikkif@iastate.edu](mailto:nikkif@iastate.edu) or 515-294-3996



## **2009 State Fair Updates**

There are numerous changes/updates/rule clarifications for the 2009 state fair. Please read carefully! As always, call Michelle at the Extension Office if you have any questions.

### **Beef**

- New rule: No artificial tails allowed.
- Existing Rule Clarifications – read carefully!  
Fitting rules clarification (all species): Family member is defined as: parent, (mom, dad, step-parent-legal guardian), brother, sister, step-sibling.  
No coaching rule clarification: No coaching will be allowed from or near the ring. This includes verbal and non-verbal coaching. Violators will be escorted from the barn/showing area for the duration of the show.
- No fresh tattoos allowed at state fair.

### **Horse**

- Walk/Trot class will be combined into one age group. Showmanship is the only other riding class the exhibitor will be allowed to enter.
- Substitutions are allowed for State Fair entries IF the replacement horse is listed on Horse ID form by May 15.
- The State Fair Board is looking at allowing 4-H horses to arrive on Monday afternoon/evening for State Fair instead of the day of the show due to the traffic problems with the other livestock areas that are on the fairgrounds.
- Fitting rules clarification (all species): Family member is defined as: parent, (mom, dad, step-parent-legal guardian), brother, sister, step-sibling.

### **Meat Goats**

- Wethers and does will be allowed to show at the 2009 State Fair.
- Fitting rules clarification (all species): Family member is defined as: parent, (mom, dad, step-parent-legal guardian), brother, sister, step-sibling.

### **Sheep**

- Adjustments have been made to the Performance Lamb carcass formula.
- Purebred registration papers: ORIGINAL paper MUST be presented at check-in.
- NO copies or faxes of registration papers will be allowed.
- Fitting rules clarification (all species): Family member is defined as: parent, (mom, dad, step-parent-legal guardian), brother, sister, step-sibling.

### **Swine**

- Check-in paint number MUST be legible upon entering the show ring or the animal will not be allowed to show.
- Derby show weigh-backs will be eliminated.
- Fitting rules clarification (all species): Family member is defined as: parent, (mom, dad, step-parent-legal guardian), brother, sister, step-sibling.
- Rules clarification: All farrowing dates for purebreds will go by the dates on the registration papers (if conflicting with date on the ID form).