

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

University Extension

Benton County 4-H Family Connection

March/April 2009

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

GREAT turnout for the 4-H Volleyball Tourney!

The 2009 Volleyball Tournament was held on Sunday, March 15 at the Washington Middle School in Vinton. There were 21 teams total that signed up – 6 Junior teams, 5 Intermediate teams, 10 Senior teams. The following teams won their division brackets: Junior Division – North Eden Willing Workers; Intermediate Division – Florence Go Getters; Senior Division – Florence Hawkeyes. Congrats to EVERYONE who participated!!

Leaders Banquet & Fair Meeting Set For May 4

Mark Monday, May 4, on your calendars. We will have the annual leaders' banquet followed by the fair meeting. Invitations will be sent out in April with RSVP information. Watch your mail for further information!

Rabbit Workshop Set for April 4 in Tipton

The 2009 4-H/FFA Rabbit Workshop will be held at the Cedar County Fairgrounds in Tipton at the 4-H Building. This event will be from 12:30 pm-4:30 pm on Saturday, April 4. Area rabbit breeders will speak on general rabbit information, there will be different breeds of rabbit shown as well as equipment and rabbits for sale and great door prizes to win! Youth are also given the opportunity to make a rabbit carrier BUT you will need to RSVP ahead of time to reserve supplies. Call 800-205-6929 to reserve your supplies. Youth are also given the opportunity to show two rabbits in a "mini" rabbit show. This is for youth who have not shown or have shown in 2 or less ARBA shows. Youth are encouraged to bring their rabbits and consult with speakers and ask questions. This is a wonderful workshop that has lots of opportunities for youth as well as resources.

What's inside...?

Calendar

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Leaders Banquet &
Fair Meeting set for
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Rabbit Workshop
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Benton County
FSQA dates

Sheep/Meat Goat
Weigh-In Set for
May 9

Attention Club
Leaders!!

March 28 - Derby
Swine Weigh-In &
Heifer Tagging

Nominate your
Neighbor for the
Wergin Good Farm
Award

DoSomething.org
Disaster Grants
available to Youth

Benton County 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 V-S schools)

Thursday, May 21 @ 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Listed below are classes available in nearby counties:

Linn County - (319) 377-9839 *RSVP required! *

March 31, 6:30 pm Linn County Extension Office

May 7, 6:30 pm Tippie Beef Center Kirkwood

Iowa County - (319) 642-5504 *RSVP required! *

March 30, 6:30 p.m. at the Iowa County Extension Office

May 5, 6:30 p.m. at the Iowa County Extension Office

Jones County - (319) 462-2791 *RSVP required!*

April 23 - Jones County Extension Office, 605 East Main Street, Anamosa. 7 to 9 p.m.



Sheep & Meat Goat Weigh-In Set For May 9

Due to the large number of sheep that we have at the sheep weigh-in and the need to order supplies ahead of time, I am asking for your help. All sheep/meat goat exhibitors will be sent a postcard to return to the Extension Office by **April 30** that will ask for their name, home and cell number, which shows they will be nominating for (county, state fair, Aksarben) and how many head they will be bring to weigh. **ALL waivers** for those who will not be present when retinal scanning is done (exhibitor/parent) **MUST be signed before weigh-in.**

The maximum that each exhibitor can nominate is 15 head for market and 15 head for breeding. You will still need to have your sheep sorted ahead of time, know which animal is whose and if you are nominating any for state fair or Aksarben. We **HIGHLY** recommend having someone keeping track of your home tag numbers (if you have them) and the weights for your own records. There is a \$5/head charge for state fair and a \$5 charge for Aksarben animals. Yes, that pricing is correct - it's new for 2009. For example, if you nominate one animal for both state fair and Aksarben, it will cost you \$10 for that animal. I **STRONGLY** suggest that you think seriously what animals you are nominating for what event.

**** Schedule for Sheep/Meat Goat Weigh-In ** This is a CHANGE from last year!! ****

1 p.m. – 2 p.m.	County Fair <u>only</u> nominations
2 p.m. – 5 p.m.	State Fair/Ak-Sar-Ben nominations
5 p.m. – 7 p.m.	FFA State Fair nominations

March 28 – Derby Swine Weigh-In and Heifer Tagging

Derby Swine will be weighed in from 8am - 10 am and the heifers will be tagged and tattooed from 10 am – 11 am at the Benton County Fairgrounds in Vinton. Derby swine has a maximum weight limit at weigh-in of 50 pounds. ID sheets for both swine and breeding beef will be available for you to fill out. Please arrive on time and know whose animal is whose so the process is as fast as possible for all parties involved. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Michelle at the Extension Office at 319-472-4739 or via e-mail at thomsenm@iastate.edu .

April 27 State Fair Swine Weigh In and Tagging

Anyone planning on exhibiting 4-H swine at State Fair need to have their hogs weighed and/or identified. Our date is April 27 from 3:30 – 5:00 PM at Titan Machinery in Blairstown. Derby pigs can weigh a maximum of 42 pounds on this date. Breeding and market hogs must be tagged and identified at this event also.

4-H'ers can Nominate Their Livestock Farming Neighbors for the Wergin Good Farm Neighbor Award – and hear about them on The Big Show

Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey is encouraging Iowans to nominate their farm neighbors for the Gary Wergin Good Farm Neighbor Award. The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, in partnership with the Iowa Ag Radio Network, honors Iowa livestock producers for their commitment and dedication to the environment, their community and their livestock through this award.

4-H'ers can nominate their neighbors who raise livestock – including club and project leaders – to help celebrate the community service provided by 4-H volunteers. The award is made possible through the financial support of The Coalition to Support Iowa's Farmers. "This award is a tremendous opportunity to tell the story of agriculture and the important role it plays in Iowa's economy," Northey, a 4-H alumnus and past Foundation Trustee, stated.

The award recognizes Iowa livestock producers who care for their operations and their neighbors and is named for Gary Wergin, a former WHO Radio broadcaster who helped create the award. To nominate someone you know write a letter or e-mail explaining why your neighbor should receive this recognition on WHO's Big Show. Applications may be submitted to:

Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship
Wergin Good Farm Neighbor Award
Henry A. Wallace Building
Des Moines, IA 50319

Or call 515/281-8606 or e-mail tess.capps@iowaagriculture.gov

** In the e-mail subject line please type: Wergin Good Farm Neighbor Award Nomination. Your letter should detail the livestock producer's commitment to the environment, community, neighbors, and preserving the land for future generations.

ATTENTION CLUB LEADERS!!!

The following clubs STILL have awards day packets/record books that are at the Extension Office - - Homer Hornets, Bruce Boosters, Homer Helpers & Harrison Willing Workers. Please, please pick them up as soon as you can. It's getting time to start getting things ready for fair (yes, it will be here before we know it ☺) and we need all of the items that don't belong here to go back to the home they have.

Do Something.org Disaster Grants available to youth

Do Something and the Dunkin' Brands Community Foundation have teamed up to offer **\$500 Disaster Grants** to young people across the US and Canada. Are you building houses down in New Orleans, planning an emergency coat drive for families in crisis this winter, or collecting toys for kids who've been through a natural disaster? Then Do Something wants to hear from you! Each week in 2009 the organization will be giving out \$500 to an awesome person with a project idea around the themes of disaster preparedness and emergency response. They want to recognize YOU for what you're doing in your community. For more information, please visit the Do Something.org Web site at <http://www.dosomething.org/grants/disaster>

Master Gardener Spring Garden Extravaganza

The Benton County Master Gardeners will be hosting their 5th Annual Spring Garden Extravaganza Saturday, May 9th at the Benton County Fairgrounds. The event begins at 7:30 AM with a plant sale and the program at 8:30 AM. Presentations include: Growing Bearded Iris, Gardening with Conifers, and Making a Mosaic Toad House. Registration for the event is \$10 and if you want to make a toad house, the cost is another \$10 for materials. Toad house making is limited to the first 25 who sign up for it. Pre-register by contacting the Benton County Extension Office to request a brochure or obtain more information.

Spend Smart Eat Smart

Any 4-Her's in Food and Nutrition or Consumer Management can help their family food budget and still eat healthy by checking out the Spend Smart Eat Smart website at:

www.extension.iastate.edu/foodsavings The website offers weekly smart tips: game-like activities about planning, shopping and preparing meals; and a blog for conversations with ISU Extension nutrition specialists.

By balancing and investing more time for meal planning, shopping, and preparing food you can save on the family food budget. The website has lots of great educational information for some project ideas!

