

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

University Extension

Benton County 4-H

Family Connection

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Prepared by Michelle Thomsen

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

Leader of the Year nominations Needed!

Does your leader just amaze you with his/her organizational ability? Does he/she have the ability to help you understand that your potential is unlimited? Can he/she run a meeting with their eyes closed and NOT go crazy with everyone talking? Then we want to know!! Leader of the Year nominations deadline has been extended to **November 1**. Nominations can be made via e-mail, snail mail or even a phone call. All that we ask is that you tell us why your leader is the best of the best! Nominate **today!**

2008 Premium Checks

Premiums have been entered, figured and mailed out to all club leaders. If your club has not received your premium check, please contact Patti at the Extension Office.

Pack the Palace & Awards Program set for Nov. 9

This year's Pack the Palace event is set for Sunday, November 9 at the Vinton Palace Theater at 1p.m. Doors will open @ 12:30 with the Awards Program starting at 1 p.m. The movie will begin at 2 p.m. There is a \$1 per person charge for each person attending the movie. Those of you that would like to attend the Awards Program **only** will be seated in a special section with limited seating and escorted to that area by County Council members. You will need to leave right after the awards program so we can admit movie goers into the theater. If you are attending both the Awards Program and the movie, you will need to pay \$1. The Concession Stand will be open but you are responsible for your purchases. We are also accepting canned and boxed donations for the Benton County Food Pantry. We are waiting for the November movie selections before we will know what movie will be showing. First come, first served basis – NO Saving seats!! See you there! ☺

IRS Penalty Notices to 4-H Clubs

Several 4-H clubs may have recently received “penalty notices” from an IRS office regarding their failure to file tax form 990. At the direction of the IRS and National 4-H Headquarters earlier this year, 4-H clubs were instructed not to file the 990-N electronic post cards and that there would not be a penalty for not filing. However, the IRS automated computer systems have inadvertently sent notices anyway to many clubs. If you have received such a notice, please contact Michelle at the Extension Office 319-472-4739.

Want to win a Pizza Party for your club? Read on!

Do you think your club is lots of fun and your friends would have a great time if they joined 4-H? What if there was an incentive of a pizza party for your entire 4-H club? Yes, it’s true! The club with the most new members for this 4-H year (2008-09) will get a pizza party courtesy of the Extension Office. The more new members you recruit, the better your chances are to get an awesome pizza party. To make it even better, it will be delivered by Linda Fischer our Director or Michelle Thomsen. The deadline for this contest is January 2, 2009. Good luck!

Weigh-In Dates have been set 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 will be announced closer to the events. :

Beef Weigh-In --- Monday, December 29, 2008

Derby Swine Weigh-In/Heifer Tagging --- Saturday, March 28, 2009

Sheep Weigh-In --- Saturday, April 25, 2009

State Fair SWINE Weigh-In --- Monday, April 27, 2009 @ Titan Machinery, Blairstown



Post Fair 4-H Committee Meeting Questions

The 4-H Committee held their September meeting and discussed numerous items. Many of you had questions. Below are the questions that were asked and the answer/decision that was given/made at that meeting:

Cleaning out livestock stalls – what are exhibitors suppose to do with the woodchips?

The Sheep, Swine & Goat exhibitors are to use wheelbarrows (that are provided) to move the chips to the marked areas (for the 2009 fair). Cattle and Horse exhibitors are to move the chips to the center isle (for stalls in the barns) and away from the tie boards at least 2-3 feet so the skid loader can get in and clean without causing any damage.

With the security issues that we had this year in the barn areas, what can we do to prevent any further problems?

It has been decided to bring back the volunteers to be present in the barns on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights at the fair. There will be a pair of volunteers each night of fair that will be present and known that will be in the livestock areas. Who they are will be known before fair so everyone knows and is aware of what they will be doing.

What are we going to do about retags on heifers coming back as cow/calf projects?

Starting with this year's beef weigh-in, all heifers will be tattooed.

Why do the Cow/Calf projects go home early?

Several years ago, the cow/calf projects were released early for various reasons that are no longer pertinent. Starting with the 2009 fair, the rule will be removed from the Fairbook and they will stay until 5 pm on Sunday, just like the rest of the livestock projects.

With the restrictions that some of the packers have started, are we going to reinstate the weight limit for cattle at December weigh-in?

No

Will the "no paint" rules be reinstated? If so, what will be the consequences?

For now, the 4-H Committee will not reinstate the "no paint" rule.

Is it possible to get the beef scale certified at the fairgrounds?

Yes, it is possible to get the scale certified but it would cost \$360 per year as it is state law that a scale must be checked 2 times a year to be considered certified. This cost will increase due to the price of gas. It is not required to have a certified scale for county fairs. As long as the scale is checked every few head with, for example, a feed bag and the scale reads out the same weight each time, it is accepted. It was decided that the scale will not be certified.

There were several professional groomers this year at fair. Learning to do grooming and clipping yourself is part of the 4-H experience. What, if anything, can be done about it?

This has been an ongoing battle since county fairs began. There is no way to police it nor is there any way to prevent it. Yes, the experience that the exhibitor gets from exhibiting and learning the basics of prepping your animal for show is something that they keep with them forever. Those that choose to not do the work and have someone else do it for them are choosing to not get that experience. The 4-H Committee wants to remind EVERYONE that the lessons you learn and the experiences that you get from doing all of the work with your livestock project(s) is something that will be with you for a lifetime.



Why can't swine weigh-in on Wednesday night of fair?

Due to the fact that they use the same scale as the sheep and the sheep weigh-in doesn't get over until 8 pm. It's best for superintendents as well as the exhibitors to have swine weigh-in starting the next morning.

Swine weigh-in goes E to W in the swine barn. Why is it that no one seems to be abiding by that? What can be done about it?

Swine weigh-in is done that way to assist superintendents see who has and hasn't weighed in. For 2009 fair, swine weigh-in will be changed to 7 am-10 am. Everyone will need to be at the barn ready to go and get their hogs to the scale.

Will we have a non-terminal show for 2009?

At this time, No.



Updates for 2009 Fair

- Sheep barn will have all metal pens.
- The 4-H Office will be removed from the sheep barn. This will allow for more pens. Its new location has yet to be decided on. The 4-H Office will have a temporary location on the fairgrounds for 2009 fair and a permanent location for 2010 fair.
- There will be no Fairbook printed by the fairboard. They will only be printing a list of the open show classes and rules that will be printed in all of the papers in Benton County around June 1. The 4-H/FFA rules will be printed by the Extension Office and given out to your leaders as before. The only difference is that it will be full size sheets and stapled together and will NOT include anything for open classes or events. It will have a full fair schedule included, but nothing else. It will still be available online as it has been for the past 3 years.
- Meat Goat Class changes: No Billy Goats allowed. Market Classes only – no breeding classes. No intact males allowed.
- Tyson's is requiring **NO CLIPPING** on **all hogs** sold to Tyson's for 2009.

4-H Million Trees Project

4-H clubs and members are invited to participate in the 4-H Million Trees (4HMT) project. Members of the Belmont and Pacifica (California) 4-H Clubs launched the 4HMT project, a large-scale service-learning project with the goal to plant 1,000,000 trees across the United States to beautify America, absorb atmospheric carbon dioxide, and combat global climate change. The project founders hope that every one of the approximately 90,000 4-H clubs and units in the U.S. will participate in this community service, and plant at least a dozen native trees in their areas during the current 4-H year. They hope that clubs will accept their invitation and adopt the project so members can enjoy the satisfaction of joining with millions of fellow 4-Hers to make a big difference in the world. 4HMT is supported by National 4-H Headquarters and the Arbor Day Foundation. To learn more about 4HMT, or to register as a participating club, visit the 4HMT web site at <http://www.4hmilliontrees.org/>.

November 22, 2008 4-H Exhibit Judges Training-Sponsored by NE Area

A 4-H Exhibit Judges Training will be held on Saturday, November 22, 2008 in Cedar Falls at the AEA 267 building. **The program is designed to meet the needs of many of our 4-H exhibit judges.** There will be a variety of topics ranging from a more in-depth session in the morning focusing on judging basics, to photography, food and nutrition, personal development, design/visual arts, communication, science and engineering, and woodworking. **There will also be two sessions devoted to new judges.** The Roundtable Discussion session will give you time to discuss various issues common with all exhibit areas with other judges and learn from each other. The workshops will provide a closer look at information in specific project areas, design elements and principles and copyright information. Most sessions will include some hands-on practice with 4-H exhibits. Registration will begin at 9:15 AM with the workshops starting at 10:15 AM. Lunch and light refreshments are included with the registration fee. It will conclude by 3:30 PM. The State 4-H Office is not issuing any updates to the “Evaluating 4-H Exhibits” notebook this year. Last year’s updates are the most current. **The November 22nd program will be held at the AEA 267 Conference Center in Cedar Falls (Black Hawk County).** Registration fee for the training session is \$25. **You must pre-register and pre-pay to attend.** Please return your registration and payment by November 7. Contact the Extension Office for registration materials or you can go online at <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4H/publicjudgesinfo.htm>.



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