

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

University Extension

Benton County 4-H Family Connection

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“4-H is a community of young people across America who are learning leadership, citizenship & life skills.”

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Prepared by Michelle Thomsen

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Last Chance In Benton County for FSQA Training

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. The last class in Benton County is **Thursday, May 21 @ 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm @ the Extension Office.** Please call ahead so we know if you are attending the training or not.

Sheep & Meat Goat Weigh-In A Success!

On May 9, nearly 300 head of sheep (4-H & FFA) and meat goats that were nominated for either county fair, state fair and Ak-Sar-Ben were weigh in. Weigh-in was sent up differently than in the past and what a difference it made!! We will be shortening up the weigh-in time for next year to prevent a lull of down time. A HUGE THANK YOU to 4-H Committee members Brent Geater, Jean Schmidt, Angie Smith & Amy Burmeister, County Council Members Mary Wrage, Chelsea Schminke and Erin Sears and Benton FFA Advisor Krystal Wright and her husband did an awesome job setting things up and getting things organized. Thank you to each of you exhibitors and your families for working with us to help move sheep and get paperwork done in a timely matter. See you in July at the County Fair!

Attention Photography Exhibitors!

A local business in Vinton, Jessy's Gems, is offering a deal for county fair 4-H exhibitors. If you get your picture(s) matted at Jessy's Gems, the foam core is free and you get 30% off the matting. As an added bonus, every exhibitor who takes advantage of this offer gets put into a drawing for a free framing of their fair photography exhibit! Jessy's Gems is located at 117 W 4 Street in Vinton. The phone number is 472-3573 if you have any questions.

2009 County Fair Books are here – your leader has them BUT...

In looking through the Fairbook, it has been found that there are 2 errors in the Fairbook in the Dairy Rules and the Meat Goat Rules. In the **Dairy** rules, the rules and part of the classes are missing. The rules and classes are on our website at www.extention.iastate.edu/benton or we would be happy to mail you a copy to place in your fair book. Please let us know either by phone or e-mail or stop in. In the **Meat Goat** rules, rule #4 has “Bucks” listed as one of the possible goats to bring to fair. This is incorrect. No intact males are allowed. We apologize for the misprints and any confusion that they may have caused.

2009 Ak-Sar-Ben Livestock Exposition

If you are planning on exhibiting at Ak-Sar-Ben, please read carefully!! Ak-Sar-Ben entries are due to the Extension Office by **Friday, August 14**. Entry information will be available mid-July.

ALSO...there have been a few changes and you need to be aware of them:

BREEDING GILT SHOW: Breeding gilts must be identified on an Iowa 4-H Nomination form (a.k.a. 4-H Swine ID sheet). To qualify a gilt for Ak-Sar-Ben's breeding show, a farrowing date must be listed with entries in August. The new day and time for the Breeding Gilt Show is Sunday, September 27 immediately following the Market Swine Show.

BROILER ORDER/ENTRY: If you are interested in exhibiting market broiler, please contact the Extension Office. Exhibitors are limited to 50 birds per exhibitor/family and are allowed to enter two pens of broilers. The broiler request/entry form is available at the extension office and is due July 1. You can also download the form on the web, fill it out and fax or mail it to Ak-Sar-Ben but the form must be received at Ak-Sar-Ben by July 1.

ADDITIONAL SWINE/SHEEP NOMINATIONS: If you want to add additional nominations for sheep or swine, you need to contact the Extension Office by June 1 to get DNA envelopes so you can pull DNA and mail it to Ak-Sar-Ben by June 15. The fee is \$5/head with checks made out to Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben.

ISU Extension Restructuring

On April 30th Iowa State University Extension announced restructuring plans in light of Extension's state appropriation cut of \$4.15 million to the FY10 budget. Changes will include elimination of all County Extension Education Director positions, closing all 5 Area Extension Offices and eliminating the Area Director positions. The five Extension program areas will now become three with the merger of some of the program areas. The 4-H and Youth area will be merging with Families. In addition, the current partnership sharing agreement with Iowa State University will change and County Extension Councils will have more local control of how those dollars are allocated for Extension locally.

In addition, there will be 20 Extension Regions created. Benton County will become part of Region 10 along with Linn and Jones Counties. Extension Directors have been meeting and the County Extension Councils will be meeting in the near future to discuss potential for sharing resources. We will still have an Extension Office in Benton County! The transition process will take a few months and County Fair will still go on as usual.

As your elected Extension Council members move forward with decisions, they will need local input more than ever before. We need to embrace the decisions that have been made and develop a plan to make the new model work for us. Your support in this effort is important!

Sincerely yours,

Linda Fischer, County Extension Education Director



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