

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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**** This is the LAST NEWSLETTER that you will receive BEFORE COUNTY FAIR!! Please read it carefully!! ****

2009 Iowa State Fair Forms Now Available

For those of you that are considering showing livestock at the 2009 Iowa State Fair, the forms are now available at the Extension Office. **All state fair entries are due by July 1!!** If you have any questions, please call Michelle at the Extension Office. Please remember that there are no printed versions of the state fair book. They have posted the state fair book online at www.iowastatefair.org. Exhibitors can request to have their exhibit area printed off for reference by the Extension Office.

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.

Alumni 4-H'ers Got Talent! And we need yours!

Former 4-H'ers are invited to participate in the 2nd Annual Alumni Share-the-Fun competition, Alumni 4-Hers Got Talent! At 7:30 P.M. on Thursday, August 13th, 2009, alumni from across the state will perform a variety of acts on the Main Stage of the 4-H Exhibit Building at the Iowa State Fair. As long as one member is a former 4-H'er, anything goes! A committee will review the applications, due July 20th, 2009, and select a variety of performers. Look for the application at www.extension.iastate.edu/statefair, coming soon!

See the Bigger Picture Photography Contest

Youngsters around the world are invited to enter the "See the Bigger Picture" photography contest by submitting images illustrating plants, animals or anything else that captures biodiversity to www.seethebiggerpicture.org. The winner will receive an all-expenses-paid trip to National Geographic headquarters in Washington, D.C., and will meet with renowned photojournalist Joel Sartore, a contest judge. Entries must be received by Sept. 8, 2009.

"See the Bigger Picture" is a joint project of Airbus, National Geographic and the Secretariat of the Convention of Biological Diversity in support of "The Green Wave" — an outreach program that promotes the goals of the United Nations biodiversity treaty and that will contribute to the celebration of the International Year of Biodiversity in 2010. As part of "The Green Wave" project, children and youth in schools worldwide plant a local tree species on May 22 each year, uniting to send a "green wave" across time zones from east to west.

The organizers hope the "See the Bigger Picture" contest will encourage children around the globe to snap and submit a photograph illustrating biodiversity in their community or from their travels and help to create the world's largest biodiversity outreach program.

Sartore, one of National Geographic's best wildlife photographers, suggests a few photo tips to get the perfect shot.

- Shoot early in the morning or late in the day for the best light. This is also when many kinds of animals are at their most active and interesting.
- Work all the angles; walk around your subject 360 degrees to find the best background, then also go from a bird's eye view (up high) to a worm's eye view (low to the ground) to get photos that are fresh and unexpected.
- Study your subjects, and have patience. While nature can be unpredictable, some animals have routines just like people. Spending a little time observing what your subjects do and when they do it can pay off with much better photos.
- You don't have to travel around the world to view and photograph wildlife. The variety of animals in your own back yard — from insects to birds to amphibians — may surprise you.

"See the Bigger Picture" contest rules can be found on www.seethebiggerpicture.org as well as in the July and August issues of National Geographic magazine and in the June/July and August issues of National Geographic Kids magazine. In the United States the contest is open to kids ages 6-14, and internationally to kids ages 6-16.



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Changes/Updates/Reminders for the 2009 Benton County Fair

- **Home Ec./S.E.E. judging** will be 8:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. If you are not checked in BEFORE 2 pm, you will not get your project(s) judged. No exceptions.
- **State Fair Awards Presentations** will be at 3 pm on Saturday of Fair Week.
- **The sheep barn** will have all metal pens. They are being installed as you read this.
- **The 4-H Office** has been removed. Its new location will be the small red barn located across from the old 4-H Office location.
- **Meat Goat Class changes:** No Billy Goats allowed. Market Classes only – no breeding classes. No intact males allowed.
- **Meat Goat Show** will start at 10 am, followed by the Sheep Show.
- **Swine weigh-in** on Thursday morning will be from 7 am - 10 am.
- **The Swine Show** will remain a terminal show.
- **Swine Clipping** will be allowed but hair cannot be shorter than a half inch.
- **Cow/Calf projects** will stay on the fairgrounds for the duration of the county fair. They will be released at 5 pm on Sunday of fair, just like the other livestock projects.
- **CLEANING OUT OF LIVESTOCK STALLS/PENS – Cattle and Horse Exhibitors** are to move the wood chips/bedding away from the tie boards (a.k.a. the front of the stall) at least 3 feet so the skid loader can get in and clean up without any damage. **Sheep, Goat and Swine Exhibitors** are to use wheelbarrows (they are provided courtesy of the Fair Board) and move all bedding to areas marked specifically for livestock bedding.
- **Barn Squad** - This is a group of volunteers that will be available to exhibitors from the hours of 10 pm – 3 am each night of county fair. These volunteers will be in the barn areas only for that time frame. They will be identified with a lanyard that hangs around their neck with an ID tag. *These individuals will NOT be replacing security nor will they be acting in that manor!* 4-H'ers and their families need to remember that Security is on the fairgrounds 24/7 for the whole week of fair. If there is an issue that security needs to be aware of, you or the Barn Squad can contact them directly. If there are other issues such as a need for a vet, they will have the # for the vet.
- **Entry Forms** will be mailed out to each exhibitor after July 4. Market livestock will have the appropriate forms that you need to sell your animal included. (You are allowed to make copies of the additional forms as needed). These forms will be stapled to the entry form and are REQUIRED when you turn them in Wednesday of fair. Any forms turned in without the required paperwork, will not be accepted and not allowed to show until ALL required paperwork is turned in.
- **Livestock Auctions** – All beef and swine animals being sold through auction and/or to market at county fair must have a Country of Origin Label (COOL) form turned in with the entry forms at county fair. All beef that MAY be sold must have a COOL form. We do not have time to chase down forms! * Bottom line – no form, no sale. *
- **Beef Auction** – Any exhibitor who is interested in signing up for the Beef Auction has until 5 pm on Saturday of fair to sign up their cattle. No late additions will be accepted – no exceptions!!
- **Horse Exhibitors** – if you have not attended the 2 required trainings, you will NOT be allowed to exhibit your horse(s). No exceptions.

