

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

University Extension

Benton County 4-H Family Connection

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

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Benton County Extension/4H website: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/benton/kidsteens.htm>

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Bowling Tournament A HUGE Success!!

THANK YOU to everyone that participated in the 3rd annual bowling tournament on January 15. There were 21 teams that participated in a fun filled day with fellow 4-H'ers. Prizes were given to teams with the highest score in their bracket (Junior, Intermediate & Senior) as well as individual boys and girls in their respective brackets. Please remember to send your Thank You's to the Extension Office. Congratulations to everyone!

Iowa Beef Expo Livestock Judging Contest

The annual Iowa Beef Expo Judging Contest will be held on **Sunday, Feb. 12** at the State Fairgrounds in Des Moines. Information is posted on the 4-H Livestock Judging website www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/projects/livestock/Livestock+Judging.htm. A new change this year is online entry.

4-H Project Workshop a Success!

Thank You to everyone who took advantage of the project workshop that was held on January 28. There were 17 members with 10 parents who attended to learn about photography and woodworking. A big Thank You to the volunteers who lead those sessions – Jay Kacena for photography and David Paustian for woodworking. We truly appreciate your time and efforts in introducing members to these project areas. We will be holding another project workshop in April.

Clipping Clinic, February 26

There will be a clipping clinic on Sunday, February 26, 2-4 pm at the Wayne & Linda Siela farm for 4-H'ers who are interested in learning more about clipping. Grooming chutes and cattle to practice on will be provided but you will need to bring your own grooming equipment. Sessions will be led by Benton County 4-H Alumni Pete Burmeister, Neal Siela and Ben Olson. ***You must pre-register at the Extension Office by February 17. Cost for the clinic is \$5.00 per participant.***

Knitting Club

Do you know how to knit? Are you interested in learning how? Jodi Bierschenk is starting a 4-H knitting club. The first meeting will be **Saturday February 4th** at 1:00pm at the VS middle school. We will be talking about what we want to do with this time. Beginners and experienced knitters of all levels are invited! Parents are welcome. If you have any questions, call Jodi at 319-213-4408.

Interested in Learning How to Be a 4-H Judge?

Are you interested in becoming a 4-H exhibit judge at county fairs? Or maybe you want to find out what a judge looks for in evaluating exhibits, so you can share this information with your club. If so, then these two workshops at the State Volunteer Retreat on Saturday, **February 11**, are for you! In the first session you will learn from Iowa State University Extension 4-H Youth Development staff and experienced 4-H judges how to evaluate, educate and encourage 4-H'ers exhibiting at county fairs. After attending the training and submitting a [Judge Preference Form](#), your name will be entered into the statewide 4-H Judges Database for county contact. In the second session, participants will break out into small groups according to project areas. They will learn more about judging exhibits exclusive to their project area of interest and get an opportunity to do some practice judging with 4-H youth. Register today for the State Volunteer Retreat at www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/Volunteers/retreat.htm and click on Registration info and FORM. Sign up for Sessions A-2 and B-8 (to participate, you must register for both of the judges' sessions). Lots of other fun, informative, interactive workshops fill the day! For more info contact Wade Weber wadewebr@iastate.edu or Kris Keene keene@iastate.edu or Chris Gleason cgleason@iastate.edu.

4H Day at ISU Gymnastics February 26

All 4-H members are invited to attend the Iowa State Gymnastics meet at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 26th for free!! All 4-H Leaders, volunteers and staff members are included in the "Free" offer. However, parents and friends or family members who are not 4-H'ers are not included. The cost for these others to attend is \$5. However, if a group of 10 or more people (outside of the 4-H'ers who are free) are coming together, you can register together and receive the discount rate of \$3 per person. Members must **RSVP by 5:00 p.m. Monday, February 20** for free admission into the meet. Details and further information will be emailed to participants on Tuesday, February 21st. To sign up, click on the link below. For questions, call JC Whidden with ISU Athletics Marketing, at 515-294-4870 with any questions you may have.

http://www.cyclones.com/quest/Questionnaire.dbml?QID=128115&DB_OEM_ID=10700.

Sheep/Meat Goat Weigh-In ** DATE CHANGE**

Attention all sheep/meat goat exhibitors! The date of the sheep/meat goat weigh-in has been moved to May 5. PLEASE make sure to mark your calendars. The schedule for weigh-in will be as follows:

8-8:30 FFA (county & state fair)

8:30-9:30 county fair only

9:30-11:30 4H State Fair/Ak-Sar-Ben



NEW for 2012 State Fair Sheep: ALL sheep that are nominated for the 2012 State Fair must be retinal scanned. Further details will be in the March newsletter.

Veterinary Experience Workshop, February 25

The Iowa State University VSMART Chapter (Veterinary Student Mixed Animal Recruitment Team) is having a Veterinary Experience Workshop on Sunday, February 25 at the Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine in Ames. This is a great experience for any youth that is interested in veterinary science and is limited to the first 100 youth that registered. Please see the attached flyer or visit our website at <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/benton/kidsteens.htm>.

FSQA Training

Food Safety Quality Assurance (FSQA) dates have been set. If you show cattle (beef, dairy or bucket/bottle), swine, poultry, rabbit, sheep or goats you **MUST** attend an FSQA class. If you think you have tested out, or are not sure when your training expires, you will need to log into your 4H Online account and check your FSQA certification. It will tell you the FSQA expiration date underneath the exhibitor's name. If you are interested in testing, please let the office know when you register. If you attend the class annually, you are not required to test. Youth may choose one training date to attend. It is **MANDATORY** to be eligible to show at the 2012 Benton County Fair and the Iowa State Fair. Please register prior to attending.

Training Dates:

Friday, **March 2nd** 2:00-4:00 PM US Bank Community Room – **Vinton** – Call Benton County Extension to register – 472-4739

Wednesday, **March 7th** 2:00 – 4:00 PM Community Room – **Blairstown**– Call Benton County Extension to register - 472-4739

Tuesday, **March 27th** 6:30-8:30 PM– Linn Mar High School – **Marion** - Call Linn County Extension to register – 377-9839

Wednesday, **April 4th** 6:30 – 8:30 PM – Jones County Extension – **Anamosa** – Call Jones County Extension to register - 462-2791

Wednesday, **May 16th** 6:30 – 8:30 PM – Linn Mar High School – **Marion** – Call Linn County Extension to register – 377-9839

Tuesday, **May 22nd** 6:30 – 8:30 PM – Jones County Extension – **Anamosa** – Call Jones County Extension to register - 462-2791

Thursday, **June 7th** 6:30 – 8:30 PM – Jones County Extension – **Anamosa** – Call Jones County Extension to register - 462-2791

Showmaster Livestock Clinic, March 4

Become A “Master of the Show Ring”. This is a great educational opportunity for kids showing cattle and hogs. This will be held on **March 4, 2012**, at Blackhawk Community College, in Kewanee, IL, registration begins at 8:00 a.m. The day will be broken into specie segments starting with hogs at 9 am and cattle at 1 pm. The experts will be covering daily care and management, clipping, fitting, feeding and showmanship. Lunch will be provided with great door prizes. To make your reservation please go to <http://www.showmasterfeedinfo.com/SMBC12> or for questions call Kim Lewis 319-430-0474 or Adam Crouch at 765-432-6589.

Tractor Safety Certification Training for Youth 14-17

Marshall County is offering a Tractor Safety Certification Training for youth between 14 and 17 years old on June 16. The training is open to all youth, not just 4-Hers. The registration form and further details are available at the Marshall County Extension website at www.extension.iastate.edu/marshall/kidsteens.htm. The cost is \$15 thanks to the support from Monsanto. **The deadline to sign up for this event is March 12.** If you have any questions, please contact Doni Sheldon, the Marshall County Youth Coordinator, via phone at 641-752-1551 or via e-mail donis@iastate.edu .



Volleyball Tournament, March 18

The Volleyball Tournament is set for Sunday March 18 at the Vinton-Shellsburg Middle School in Vinton. Team registrations are due Friday, March 2. The tournament will start at 1:00 pm. Contact your club leader(s) if you are interested in playing.

4-H is Fun Leader's Conference, March 31

Looking for an opportunity to network with 4-H volunteers from around Southeast Iowa? Join us for the 4-H is Fun Leader's Conference! The date is set for March 31st, 2012, at the Indian Hills Community College in the Advanced Technologies Building on the Ottumwa Campus. The 4-H is Fun Leader's Conference is a day packed with information, sharing and fun! Some of the breakout sessions that you may attend include 4-H Online Fear Factor Challenge, 4-H 101, Tools for Revving up Clover Kids and Essential Elements of 4-H! Registration begins at 8:45 am and the day concludes with door prizes at 2:30pm! The cost for the Conference if you register before March 1st is only \$10.00! If you register between March 2 and March 15, the cost is \$15.00 and between March 16 and March 30, the cost is \$20.00. Conference registration and session descriptions are available at:

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/vanburen/kidsteens.htm> . For more information contact Courtney Chapman, Appanoose County Youth Coordinator, cchapman@iastate.edu , 641-856-3885

NEW in 2012 - Iowa Showpig Circuit!

The Great Plains Livestock Association would like to invite you to participate in this new and exciting show pig circuit that will be starting up in Iowa in the spring/summer of 2012. Individuals wishing to exhibit their swine projects at numerous shows from April to July while collecting "points" and working towards year end awards are encouraged to participate. For many of you familiar with the Iowa Junior Beef Breeds Association or the Heartland Youth Show Lamb circuit, this show pig circuit will follow many of the same formats. The Great Plains Livestock Association mission statement reads: To encourage Iowa and Nebraska youth to more eagerly participate in swine events and to promote educational and skill- building opportunities, while enhancing the knowledge of youth about the purebred, show pig, and commercial segments of the swine industry. We are extremely excited about this new program and look forward to a large participation. Check out greatplainslivestock.com for show schedules and more information regarding the circuit, or contact Jarrod and Shari Bakker at 515-291-1956 or 319-269-8014. You can also email them at jarrod.bakker@yahoo.com or sharisellbakker@hotmail.com. Samantha Winter can be reached at 806-543-4146 or winter0626@live.com

Win a Meat Goat Club Wether

4-H and FFA members who attend the Tall corn Meat Goat Sale will be eligible to win a meat goat club wether given away by the association. The sale will be held at the Kalona Sale Barn, Kalona, Iowa on April 28th, 2012 beginning at 9:30 a.m. The wether will be eligible to compete in the Tall Corn Meat Goat Futurity show in Washington, Iowa in August. Only this wether or wethers purchased at this sale are eligible for the \$3000 in prize money awarded at this show. For more information contact Vern Thorp at 641-660-1390.

Crop Scouting Competition for Iowa Youth 2012

The Iowa State University Integrated Pest Management Program, with support from the Iowa Soybean Association and Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc., is pleased to bring you the Crop Scouting Competition for Iowa Youth 2012. High school students (those completing grades 9-12) from across Iowa are invited to compete and showcase their scouting abilities in corn and soybean. The competition will be a one day event with both indoor and outdoor components. The competition is a joint 4-H and FFA event.

Location and date: The [2012 Crop Scouting Competition](#) will be held at the Iowa State University Extension Farm near Boone, Iowa on July 31, 2012. The Iowa State University Extension Farm is located at 1928 240th St, Boone, IA 50036. **Preparation:** A 14-part integrated pest management (IPM) curriculum and Iowa State University (ISU) Field Guides are available to help prepare teams for the competition. To request a copy of these materials on CD, email the ISU IPM Program at isuiipm@iastate.edu with your request, name, address, and affiliation and a CD will be sent to you. This CD includes the IPM curriculum, Scouting Fields learning module, and PDFs of five ISU Field Guides. The IPM curriculum can also be found online at <http://www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/cropscouting>. An online workshop will be provided that highlights the competition, the curriculum, how to obtain ISU publications, and how to organize and prepare a team. This 1 hour workshop will take place February 21, 2012 at 3:30pm and will be held using Adobe Connect. The online workshop will be held at <https://connect.extension.iastate.edu/r4z0a0z8vgy/>. Please visit <http://www.doodle.com/k3vgdq96u43d2isq> to RSVP for this workshop. **Teams:** Each school, club, or other organization may enter a team composed of three or four participants. FFA team members must all be from the same chapter. Each participant will participate in all phases of the event. Each team is responsible to provide whatever they will need to conduct field scouting. No scouting tools or supplies will be provided, but teams are welcome to bring the materials they will need to scout a field (i.e., tape measure, pest/disease ID guides). **Registration:** Teams must register by July 1, 2012. To register, please fill out the form at the end of this document and follow the instructions found there. Registration will be \$50 per team, but this fee will be refunded when the team attends the competition. Payment by check is due along with the registration form by July 1. Teams will also be reimbursed for mileage. For further questions about the competition, please contact Adam Sisson at ajsisson@iastate.edu. For Registration forms and the Field Guides to use as team resource materials contact Jay Staker at jstaker@iastate.edu.

Rabbit Workshop , March 3, Strawberry Point

An opportunity for members who are interested in rabbits will be on March 3 in Strawberry Point at the Strawberry Point Civic Center. Hands on sessions, talk to judges and breeders as well as have an opportunity to make your own rabbit carrier. If you or any member is interested, contact the Clayton County Extension Office. See the flyer for further details or visit our website at <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/benton/kidsteens.htm> .



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4-H Calendar

February

- 11 Leader's Retreat, Ankeny
- 14 4H Future Focus Committee meeting
- 20 4H Committee Meeting

March

- 2 FSQA Training, Vinton, 2-4 pm (remember to register)
- 2 Club Volleyball Team registrations due to the Extension Office
- 7 FSQA Training, Blairstown, 2-4 pm (remember to register)
- 7 County Council Meeting
- 17 Derby Swine/Heifer Tagging
- 18 Volleyball Tournament, 1pm, Vinton-Shellsburg Middle School, Vinton
- 20 4-H Leaders Training



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