



Ringgold County 4-H News

February 2009

Important Dates to Remember:

February 2nd: 4H Scholarship Applications due to State 4H Office (find applications at: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/grants.html>)

February 2nd: Iowa's Promise...Our Youth grant applications due to State 4H Office (find applications at: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4H/iowaspromise.html>)

February 6th-7th: 4H State Leaders Retreat in Ankeny (contact Extension Office if interested)

February 7th: Clover Kids 4H meeting from 9:00–10:00 am @ Extension Office

February 8th-15th: Iowa Beef Expo in Des Moines

February 16th: Area Recognition applications due to Extension Office

February 22nd: County Council meeting @ 7:00 pm @ Extension Office

March 7th: Clover Kids 4H meeting from 9:00–10:00 am @ Extension Office

March 22nd: County Council meeting @ 7:00 pm @ Extension Office

March 27th-29th: 4H Safety & Education of Shooting Sports instructor training @ Iowa 4-H Center

March 29th: Area Recognition interviews @ Murray

March 30th: 4H Leader Training @ 7:00 pm @ Extension Office

April 4th: Clover Kids 4H meeting from 9:00–10:00 am @ Extension Office

April 24th: Market Sheep/Meat Goat Weigh-In @ 4:00 pm @ Fairgrounds

May 6th: Food Safety & Quality Assurance (FSQA) training @ 7:00 @ Extension Office (more details to come)

May 15th: Livestock ID forms due to Extension Office (forms will be sent in the 4H'er Fair Book in April)

May 22nd-24th: Beef Grooming Clinic @ Fairgrounds

July 8th-12th: Ringgold County Fair

August 13th–23rd: Iowa State Fair

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County Tidbits

Market Beef Weigh-In–

Market Beef weigh-in was held on Saturday, January 3rd. There were 39 calves weighed in by 24 4H members. 15 calves were verified for State Fair/AK-SAR-BEN for 11 4-H members.

We would like to thank all of the volunteers that helped with our weigh-in: Brian Bickel, Andy Dugan, Jeff Fletchall, Bob Martin and Doyle Richards. Thanks also to our 4H families. A special thanks to Doyle and Connie Richards for allowing us to use their ranch as our weigh-in location again this year.

Beef Grooming Clinic–

Beef Superintendents have arranged to have Chuck McCullough, professional cattle groomer/fitter (<http://www.maineaimranch.com/fittingclinics.html>), come to Ringgold County to put on a clinic the weekend of May 22nd. The clinic would run from Friday evening to Sunday evening. Participants would need to bring a halter-broke calf and all their tack and feed. Topics covered will be: daily care, clipping, fitting and showmanship. There will also be a feed rep there to talk about show calf feed and nutrition. The clinic has a maximum limit of 20 participants. Contact Dawn at the Extension Office if you are interested in signing up to attend by February 27th—deadline extended. Initial cost of the clinic was \$75, but Farmer's Coop and Purina would like to donate \$50 coupons to the first 20 youth that come in and pay to attend the clinic—lowering the cost to \$25/youth. An accompanying adult may attend for free.

Area Tidbits

Area & State 4H Recognition Opportunities–

If you're a 4H member in grades 9-12, there are several exciting Iowa and National 4H recognition opportunities available to you. Below is a brief summary of these opportunities—check with the Extension office for more details and application information. Application forms are due to the Extension office by February 16th. Face-to-face interviews will be held in Murray on Sunday, March 29th. Also look at this website to see video clips, tips for material preparation and copies of the evaluation criteria: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4H/recognition.htm>

State 4H Council (June 2009–June 2010): Ambassadors for the state 4H program by providing input on 4H program issues, planning and executing state events, and practicing leadership, communication and citizenship skills. This group plans and implements the State 4H Conference held on the ISU campus each summer. Eight members of the State Council are selected from the Southwest Iowa area. Must be in grades 10 or 11 at time of application. Final selection will be made March 29th. Additional information at: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4H/Documents/RecogState1112StateCouncil.pdf> and <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4H/statecouncil/index.htm>

State Project Awards (50 recipients will be awarded at ISU in late August): Recognition for youth who have excelled in projects by participating, learning and evaluating 4H experiences. Assigned quota of youth advance to state from the Southwest Iowa area. Must be in grades 9, 10, 11 or 12 at time of application. Final selection made in August. For more information go to: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4H/Documents/RecogState1320ProjectAwards.pdf>

National 4H Conference (March 20-25, 2010—tentative): Representative groups of 4H'ers from each state discuss the future 4H program needs at the national level. Four delegates are selected from Iowa and travel to the National 4H Center in Chevy Chase, Maryland. Must be in grades 9, 10 or 11 at time of application. Final selection made in August. For more information go to: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4H/Documents/RecogState0708NationalConference.pdf>

National 4H Congress (Nov. 27 - Dec. 1, 2009 in Atlanta, Georgia): A forum to discuss issues of concern to youth and strengthen youth involvement in communities in local, county and state 4H programs. 22-23

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youth selected from Iowa. Join with groups from other states and travel to Atlanta. Must be in grades 10 or 11 at time of application. Final selection made in August. For more information go to:
<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4H/Documents/RecogState0910NatlCongress.pdf>

Iowa Youth Technology Team (June 2009–June 2010): Teens from around the state will experience cutting-edge technology and work together to expand technology usage at 4H events and activities. Three team members and one alternate selected from the Southwest Iowa area. Computer, internet and email access required. Must be in grades 9, 10 or 11 at time of application. To learn more about the Tech Team go to : <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/techteam/index.html>

State Tidbits

State Fair Swine Weigh-In and Identification--

The dates for the 2009 Iowa State Fair weigh-ins are Saturday, April 25th–Saturday, May 2nd. Every 4H'ers is required to fill out an "Intent to Participate" form and submit it to the State 4H Office by March 20th. The 2009 sites and locations are still being finalized. County offices will be notified when updated forms and information are available on the website. Each past State Fair exhibitor will receive a swine information letter in February.

Iowa 4H Horse Advisory Committee Provides Information Webcasts--

4H volunteers, 4H member and parents are invited to watch 3 webcasts that will be held (archived for later viewing) on:

Session #1: Monday, Feb 2nd 7:00-9:00 pm

Topic of Interest–Iowa Youth Horse Jamboree: learn about the Iowa Youth Horse Jamboree to be held April 4th-5th at the State Fairgrounds. Information will be given on all of the various contests kids can participate in including quiz bowl, hippology, public speaking, team grooming and the horseless horse events.

Session #2: Monday, Mar. 2nd 7:00-9:00 pm

Topic of Interest–Horse Judging, Current Topics in Horse Care: learn about how to start a judging team in your county, the ins and outs of putting on a contest, participating in State and National contests, and current & future web resources for staff and volunteers wanting to learn more

Session #3: Monday, May 4th 7:00-9:00 pm

Topic of Interest–Correctly Identifying your Horse, 4H State Fair show, Special Topics on Skill Development

If you are interested in attending one of these webcasts, you will need to do the following to make sure you will be able to view it:

Test your connection: http://connect.extension.iastate.edu/common/help/en/support/meeting_test.htm

Get a quick overview: http://www.adobe.com/go/connectpro_overview

If it works, then you will be good to go. We are not sure exactly how/if dial-up internet connections work, but the above link will let us know.

If it does not work for you, contact the Extension Office and we can arrange a way to accommodate you.

2009 4H Photography Exhibition: 4H'ers in Action–Holidays and Seasons--

The Iowa 4H Foundation announces a special opportunity for all 4H members to participate in the third annual statewide photo exhibition entitled, "4H'ers in Action!" The theme this year will be: Holidays and Seasons. The exhibition will again feature the best photo from each participating county and will be

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displayed at the 2009 Iowa State Fair. Photos selected for the exhibition will also be considered for future 4H promotional materials.

This will again be an added class in our county fair book. It is open to all 4H members in grades 4-12 regardless of their project enrollment areas. These photos will not be judged with other photography exhibits on judging day, but rather will be judged by the 4H & Youth Committee members to decide which one shall represent Ringgold County at the State Fair exhibit. Other entries will be kept on display at the Extension office throughout the next 4H year.

4H Discount Event Tickets–

- Iowa State Center and Wells Fargo continually offer 4H discounted ticket prices. Find out about upcoming events at: <http://www.iowa4hfoundation.org/>
- **4H Day at Cyclone Basketball Games:** The Iowa 4-H Foundation will be hosting a 4-H Day at the Iowa State Women's basketball game versus Kansas on March 7, 2009, 7:00 PM at Hilton Coliseum in Ames. This is the last home game of the season and senior night! Cost is just \$10 per person - which includes admission to the game, a drink, hotdog, and an exclusive Cyclone 4-H t-shirt. One game not enough? There is a men's basketball game at 12:45 PM that same day versus Texas Tech (however, this game is not included in the promotional offer). This is a great way for a club or county to get together and head to Ames for a day of 4-H and Iowa State Basketball. All 4-H youth, volunteers, leaders and alumni are invited to attend at the discounted price. 4-H promotions will be held throughout the game with a variety of events and activities.

Don't miss out on this exciting event! Visit www.ticketmaster.com and enter code IOWA4H to get your tickets! **Get your tickets today!** Go to <http://www.ticketmaster.com/promo/t16bgz> Click on **FIND TICKETS**. Select the number of tickets under **IOWA 4-H PROMOTION**. Enter code **IOWA4H** to receive the discount. If you are attending with your club or county, notify Shelly Greving at shellyg@iastate.edu or call (515) 294-1607 and you will be recognized as a group attending the game.

Other Tidbits

Giving the Gift of Love–

Provided by Angie Auel, Ringgold County Tobacco Prevention Coordinator

As Valentine's Day approaches, we begin to think about our loved ones. I want the absolute best for my children. I provide a home which is smoke-free and ask other people to not smoke around them. This Valentine's Day, would you "Give the gift of Love" to your children? We as parents need to do all that we can to keep our children healthy. Keeping them away from secondhand smoke is one thing we can do.

Secondhand smoke has been linked to Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), asthma, bronchitis, pneumonia, ear infections, and lung cancer. With an infant daughter who has had frequent ear infections already, being around people who smoke does not help her situation. It is not enough to move to another room, turn on a fan, or open a window.

We want the very best for them, don't we? Please call 1-800-QUIT-NOW to begin a new life for your family.

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