Spring is Here!

We are about to embark on another busy and exciting spring and summer season in the 4-H year. From April 1 the county fair is only 110 days away. May seem like a lot of time, but you can be sure it will pass quickly.

In the mean time, take care of 4-H business and make sure you are current with the deadlines and requirements outlined in this newsletter. These include market swine, sheep, and goat weigh-in April 30th; the May 1 deadline for enrollment and livestock I.D.’s; FSQA certification for all those who have meat and dairy animal projects, and fair entry deadline day July 1 to name a few.

Please look over and take advantage of other opportunities such as regional and state 4-H camps and others listed in this newsletter and more to come in the next newsletter. Good luck and best wishes as you “Spring into 4-H.”

Yours in 4-H,
Jack Van Laar
Kala Leeper

**REPEAT** Please Get Enrollment/Re-enrollment Up-To-Date **REPEAT**

Before we can mark you as an active 4-H member your 4-H on-line account must be up-to-date and enrollment fees paid. Technically, to be eligible for 4-H activities or events you need to be an active member. If the club pays your share of the $20 enrollment fee or you plan to pay at a later date, then we need a signed assurance at the office. If you wish to apply for some financial assistance, you also need to let us know. Application for 4-H Foundation financial assistance for enrollment fees can be found at: https://www.iowa4hfoundation.org/en/funding_opportunities/iowa_4h_program_fee_assistance/
LOCAL 4-H NEWS

Enrollment, Livestock ID: MUST BE ACTIVE Member by May 1

All 4-Hers need to be listed as ACTIVE in 4honline by May 1 in order to be enrolled in good standing, complete any remaining livestock ID’s, and be eligible for county and state fair entry. To determine your standing you need to go into 4honline and sign-in. If you are listed as PENDING, you may need to pay enrollment fees (or certify to us your enrollment fees will be paid by when and by whom), or correct some information. If you are listed as INCOMPLETE, you need to sign back in, complete the step by step enrollment process and choose submit at the end. If you are listed as INACTIVE, you need to use your account sign-in information and complete the enrollment process in 4honline. If you have any problem with this process, call the office immediately.

You can also go to the 4honline page at:
http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/page/4honline-information-families-and-leaders

Scroll down to “Help Documents for Families” and download help sheets for re-enrolling or new enrolling families for a step-by-step tutorial which will guide you through the enrollment/re-enrollment process.

Swine, Sheep, Goat Weigh-in

This will be held 8-11 am on Saturday, April 30th at the Jim Scott Livestock Pavilion at the fairgrounds. All market animals of these species must be weighed in and tagged. In addition, all 4-H market swine to be nominated for State Fair must be ear notched and have a DNA sample tag applied (Cost: $8). Note: Please bring cash or check for these fees made out to the Decatur County Extension Office with you.

All market sheep and goats, as well as breeding sheep and meat goat does that are to be eligible for State Fair must be retinal imaged (also $8/head). Any market sheep and meat goats which are to be candidates for AK-SAR-BEN must also have hair pulled for DNA (also $8/head).

Breeding Ewes/Goats-State Fair

For State Fair eligibility, any breeding ewes or breeding meat goats (pure bred or commercial) must also have retinal images, though they do not have to be weighed.

Breeding meat goat does need retinal images and either a 4-H tag OR official tattoo AND birth date in 4honline. (Official Tattoo=Left ear-Individual animal ID; Right ear-Herd prefix. Individual ID number all that is needed in 4honline).

Breeding ewes-(both commercial and pure-bred) need a tag AND retinal images. Meat goat does and ewes can be identified as both market and breeding animals but can be shown in either their respective market classes along with wethers, or as breeding animals but not both. Decision must be made by July 1 fair entry.

Question about April 30 Weigh-in and May 1 ID Deadline

There has been some questions raised about meeting the May 1 ID deadline for market swine, sheep and goats weighed in on April 30th. All market swine, sheep and goats which are weighed and ID’ed on April 30th will be considered to have met the deadline as long as the members are ACTIVE in 4honline (see previous article). However, the animals must still be verified by the 4-Her in 4honline after they are entered by the office, probably by the middle of the week following weigh-in, for the ID process to be complete.

All other livestock with the May 1 deadline (horses, dairy and breeding animals) must be identified by May 1. For any of you needing some help with the animal ID entry process in 4honline, refer to the attached Help Sheet supplement which can be found at:
http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4hfiles/agriculture/LivestockEntryForFamilies.pdf

MISSION STATEMENT

4-H EMPOWERS YOUTH TO REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL THROUGH YOUTH-ADULT PARTNERSHIPS AND RESEARCH-BASED EXPERIENCES.
FSQA Training Update

A reminder that FSQA Training and certification is required for exhibitors of all species of meat and dairy livestock—market or breeding—including rabbits and poultry to be eligible to show those animals at the Decatur County or Iowa State Fair. Juniors must attend training every year. Sessions remaining are: Mon., March 28 and Wed., April 6 7-9 pm 4-H Building if you have not done so, call the Extension Office now and sign up for one of these sessions. (Enrollment is capped at 20 for each session. All members were recently sent reminder cards).

Intermediates (7th, 8th and 9th grade years) and Seniors (10th grade and older) have one review and test session remaining: Thurs., March 31-Review 6:30-7:30; Test 7:30 4-H Building. Intermediates and Seniors who need to test and did not attend a review/test session must make arrangements with the Extension office to come in and test out by June 1.

Poultry Project Member Webinar

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship announces a New Biosecurity Webinar for Backyard Flocks which poultry project members may want to view. Go to the website—healthybirds.aphis.usda.gov Click on Campaign Resources and Materials on the right side. The new webinar for 2016 is entitled Don’t Let Disease Ruin Your Spring.

Everyone is hopeful that there will not be another avian flu outbreak this year which also caused the cancellation of all county and state fair poultry shows in Iowa last year. The spring wild waterfowl migration, thought to be the source of last year’s outbreak is just beginning so we will need to be vigilant and follow good biosecurity measures as outlined in the webinar and materials mentioned above.

County Wide Events and Activities

2016 Decatur County Fair

The 2016 Decatur County 4-H and FFA Fair will be held July 20-25 at the Decatur County Fairgrounds in Leon. Entry deadline is Friday, July 1. We will again be using the Online Fair Entry process. Schedule will be similar to past years with a few exceptions:

All livestock check-in will remain 5-9 am, Thursday, July 21 for all breeding and market animals; 7-9 am for rabbits and poultry, and 8-9 am for horses. New crop calves that check-in after 5-9 am on July 21 MUST have a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection and arrive no later than 9 am, July 23. This is being done to conform with State Health requirements.

The Horse Show will start at 11:00 am July 21. The Dog Obedience Show is being moved from Sunday, July 24 to Monday, July 25 at 11:00 am. The Fair Board is currently finalizing the Fair Schedule. Our goal is to have the 2016 Fair Book completed early in May and mailed out with fair packets by June 1. Watch future newsletters for final details, major revisions or changes, and other announcements.

Club Leader Information

Annual Leader Training Requirement—Online Option Only Remains

Any club leaders who have not attended one of the group training sessions previously offered have only the online training option left to fulfill this annual training requirement by June 1.

This option has been spelled out in a letter sent to all leaders earlier in the club year. A brief summary follows:

*Go to a topic of interest—http://fyi.uwex.edu/ncrvd/the-heart-of-community/ or http://fyi.uwex.edu/ncrvd/encouraging-the-heart-of-leadership/

*Download all handout materials on your selected site (or you can pick up Heart of Community hand-outs from earlier training at the Extension Office).

*View the webinar on your selected site.

*Complete the evaluation for your topic - The Heart of Community- (https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bkgH1mL2MevLHc9) or Encouraging the Heart of Leadership - (https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9QXJBBz0hERlHIp)

*E-Mail kleeper@iastate.edu with the following by June 1: Name..Title of Webinar ..Date Viewed... Three Things Learned or Will Use...What was Most Helpful?

4-H PLEDGE

I PLEDGE MY HEAD TO CLEARER THINKING, MY HEART TO GREATER LOYALTY, MY HANDS TO LARGER SERVICE, AND MY HEALTH TO BETTER LIVING, FOR MY CLUB, MY COMMUNITY, MY COUNTRY, AND MY WORLD.
We are very excited about **2016 West Field 4-H 5th & 6th Grade Jr. Camp** for this year at a new camping center, the EASTERN NEBRASKA 4-H CAMPING CENTER near Gretna, just 20 minutes east of Omaha. Our 4-H camp will be for all youth from Monona and Regions 12, 17 & 18 Counties. This new camping center for our camp has bathrooms in the cabins, a zip line course, a huge water slide, swimming in a lake and a challenging high and low ropes team building course along with a group of wonderful camp counselor teens from our counties that will help lead the camping experience. We have shown strong evidence that the camping experience is a strong life skill building experience for our campers and counselors and a strong tool in creating a significant life skill building experience that affect campers creating memories that last a lifetime and that has an impact on them staying in 4-H. So celebrate with us another year of 4-H camping geared for our youth and Iowa 4-H members in 22 counties of our West 4-H Field Area!

Take a ride on the "WILD" side and mark on your calendars to attend **2016 West Field 4-H 5th & 6th Grade Jr. Camp** June 12-15 at Eastern Nebraska 4-H Camping Center.

Experience the adventure and excitement of four days filled with 4-H camp traditions and some new activities, including canoeing, camp songs, a new zip line course, a huge water slide, GAGA Ball, swimming, outdoor camping basics, and campfires! Learn to create cool crafts that work great as 4-H working exhibits.

**2016 Camp Counselors Needed**

**GREAT:** friends...talks.....memories.....leadership opportunity....for the resume and college application....role model that your campers will look up to....chance to help younger 4-H’ers grow in their skills....

What could be this GREAT?

Being a counselor at the **2016 West Field 4-H 5th & 6th Grade Junior Camp for June 12-15 to be held** at the Eastern Nebraska 4-H Camping Center, near Gretna, just 30 minutes west from Omaha.

You just need to be a 4-H’er and age 16 or older by June 11 in time for camp. You will need to attend the two required training sessions in late May and early June.

Counselors will head up to camp the day before campers arrive, Saturday, June 11 for a workday to finish preparations for camp as well as get familiar with the important programming sites on the camp grounds. Being a camp counselor is also a great leadership opportunity as you are building your resume for college scholarships and leadership roles at school.

Fill out a counselor application from the West Field 4-H 5th & 6th Grade Jr. Camp Webpage ([http://www.extension.iastate.edu/harrison/news/2016-west-field-4-h-5th-6th-grade-jr-camp](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/harrison/news/2016-west-field-4-h-5th-6th-grade-jr-camp)) and mail, fax or email it to the Harrison County Extension Office by Friday, April 1st to be considered for this year’s **GREAT** Camp Leadership Team.

**April is Arbor Month – Celebrate & Learn about Trees**

If you are interested in forestry and the environment & sustainability 4-H project areas, **Arbor Month and Arbor Day** (Friday, April 29) are opportunities to celebrate the role of trees in our lives as well as promote tree planting and care. Many local, regional, and national organizations and entities offer seedling ordering or grant programs, including the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Bring a friend with you or make new ones! Camp will run from Sunday, June 12 at 3 p.m. until our closing ceremony starting at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, June 15.

4-H camps are open to ALL YOUTH – membership in a 4-H club is not a requirement – so bring a friend to share the experience! **2016 West Field 4-H 5th & 6th Grade Jr. Camp** is open to all Monona, Region 12, 17 & 18 counties youth who have completed grades 5 and 6 or the equivalent in Home Schooling. The camp will be filled at 80 youth, so you will want to register early before it fills up. Registration, Parental Permission, Camp Health Info and Permissions Form and Request for providing Medication at a 4-H Event form (if your camper will be bringing any medications with them) are available from the county extension office or downloaded from [http://www.extension.iastate.edu/harrison/news/2016-west-field-4-h-5th-6th-grade-jr-camp](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/harrison/news/2016-west-field-4-h-5th-6th-grade-jr-camp) in Microsoft Word and Adobe PDF format.

Registration deadline is May 20. Cost for the four day camp will be $185.00. (The Decatur County Extension office provides $50 reimbursement of this camping fee to 4-H members so actual cost to you is $135). Please contact David Seilstad, phone: 712/644-2105 or email: seilstad@iastate.edu if you have any questions on this camp or others being offered at the EASTERN Nebraska 4-H Center: [http://4h.unl.edu/4hcampeastern](http://4h.unl.edu/4hcampeastern) You can take a virtual tour of the center, cabins and programming facilities at this website.
4-H Experience Agronomy Event

The Iowa State University Agronomy Club invites grades 4-8 4-Hers to attend an interactive day full of learning about different aspects of agronomy including weeds, seeds, plants, and weather. 4-H leaders are invited as well and can bring the whole club!

**Who:** All Iowa 4-Hers grades 4-8 are invited as well as parents/4-H leaders

**Where:** Iowa State University, Ames IA, Agronomy Hall. Parking provided.

**When:** Saturday April 9, 2016 9:00-1:15 Check-in beginning at 8:30 AM

**Cost:** $8 per 4-Her. Includes meal and a t-shirt. A free will donation is suggested for parents/leaders/guests who wish to eat lunch as well. Parents/leaders/guests do not need to pre register.

**Registration:** Opens March 5 and closes on April 1, 2016. Takes place on line through the link below. Please select the 4-H Experience Agronomy Event and complete the required fields. Payment is to be submitted online.

https://market-stuorg.sws.iastate.edu/ Questions? Email Emily Putze at erputze@iastate.edu

Older Youth Opportunities

**Winner’s Circle Scholarships** (Freshman/May1; Undergraduate/April1)

College-bound Iowa youth active in 4-H and/or FFA livestock and agricultural projects and current undergraduate students may apply for scholarships available from the Iowa Foundation for Agricultural Advancement (IFAA).

The scholarships are available to freshmen entering any Iowa two or four-year, post-secondary institution this fall and current undergraduates attending Iowa State University. Applicants must major in animal science or a curriculum in agriculture or human sciences that is related to the agriculture industry.

Winners will be announced during the 2016 Iowa State Fair annual 4-H/FFA Sale of Champions on Saturday, August 20th, an event sponsored by IFAA. Winner’s Circle scholarship funds come from a percentage of Sale of Champions proceeds as well as Winner’s Circle Club donations.

Click below for more information on the 2016 IFAA Winner’s Circle Scholarships and the application form:


If you have questions, contact: Linda Weldon at 515-291-3941 or Harold Hodson at 515-290-8875.

MISSION STATEMENT

4-H EMPOWERS YOUTH TO REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL THROUGH YOUTH-ADULT PARTNERSHIPS AND RESEARCH-BASED EXPERIENCES.
Quick Reference Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>APRIL</th>
<th>MAY</th>
<th>JUNE-AND LATER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 28– Jr. FSQA Training-7-9 pm-4H Bldg.</td>
<td>May 1-All members must be enrolled and ACTIVE in 4-H Online</td>
<td>June 1– All FSQA Certification Completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 31-Int/Sr FSQA Review and test-4H Bldg-6:30 pm</td>
<td>May 1-All Livestock ID’s DUE in 4-H Online</td>
<td>June 1– All 4-H Leaders complete annual training requirement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 1– Camp Counselor Applications due for 5th-6th Grade-Regional Camp</td>
<td>May 1-LeRoy MerryMakers 4-H Club meeting-4 pm</td>
<td>June 5-LeRoy MerryMakers 4-H Club meeting-4 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 3- LeRoy MerryMakers 4-H Club meeting-4pm</td>
<td>May 1-Decatur Co. Achievers Club Meeting-2:30 pm-4H Bldg</td>
<td>June 5-Decatur Co. Achievers Club Meeting-2:30 pm-4H Bldg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 3-Decatur Co. Achievers Club Meeting-2:30 pm-4H Bldg</td>
<td>May 1-Decatur Co. Achievers Club Meeting-2:30 pm-4H Bldg</td>
<td>June 7-Decatur Co. Achievers Club Meeting-2:30 pm-4H Bldg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 5- Young Guns Cub Meeting-Fairgrounds-6:30 pm</td>
<td>May 3- Young Guns Cub Meeting-Fairgrounds-6:30 pm</td>
<td>June 12-Decatur Co. Achievers Club Meeting-7pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 6-Jr. FSQA Training-7-9 pm-4H Bldg.</td>
<td>May 8-Bloomington Rustlers 4-H Club Meeting-1 pm</td>
<td>June 12-15– 2016 West Field 4-H Regional 5th-6th Grade Camp at Eastern Nebraska 4-H Camping Center.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 10-Bloomington Rustlers 4-H Club Meeting-1 pm</td>
<td>May 8-Wranglers 4-H Club Meeting-7pm</td>
<td>June 13-Decatur County Dynamites 4-H Club Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 10-Wranglers 4-H Club Meeting-7pm</td>
<td>May 9-Decatur County Dynamites 4-H Club Meeting</td>
<td>June 13- Extension Council meeting-5:30 pm-Extension Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 11-Decatur County Dynamites 4-H Club Meeting</td>
<td>May 9-Extension Council meeting-5:30 pm-Extension Office</td>
<td>June 15-Decatur Co. Boosters 4-H Club Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 11-Extension Council meeting-5:30 pm-Extension Office</td>
<td>May 11-Lamoni Livewires 4-H Club Meeting</td>
<td>June 19-Decatur Co. Boosters 4-H Club Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 13-Lamoni Livewires 4-H Club Meeting</td>
<td>May 15-Decatur Co. Boosters 4-H Club Meeting</td>
<td>June 20-Decatur Co. Boosters 4-H Club Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 17-Decatur Co. Boosters 4-H Club Meeting</td>
<td>May 16-Southern Trailblazers 4-H Club Meeting-6:30 pm</td>
<td>June 20-Southern Trailblazers 4-H Club Meeting-6:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 18-Southern Trailblazers 4-H Club Meeting-6:30 pm</td>
<td>May 16-Fair Board Meeting-7:00 pm-4H Building</td>
<td>June 22-Online Enrolled and ACTIVE in 4-H Entry site</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 18-Fair Board Meeting-6:30 pm-4-H Building</td>
<td>May 20-Deadline to Register for Regional 5th-6th Grade Camp</td>
<td>July 1-County and State Fair Entries DUE in 4-H Entry site</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 30- Market Swine/Sheep/Meat Goat Weigh-in-Fairgrounds-8-11 am</td>
<td></td>
<td>July 20-25–2016-Decatur County Fair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Please Note:</strong> Check with leaders for possible changes in time/date and location of club meetings listed above.</td>
<td></td>
<td>August 11-21, 2016-Iowa – State Fair</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**4-H PLEDGE**

I PLEDGE MY HEAD TO CLEARER THINKING, MY HEART TO GREATER LOYALTY, MY HANDS TO LARGER SERVICE, AND MY HEALTH TO BETTER LIVING, FOR MY CLUB, MY COMMUNITY, MY COUNTRY, AND MY WORLD.