

JANUARY 2022



Youth Staff

Amy Brainard
County Youth
Outreach Coordinator
Kim Kuester
Youth Program Specialist
Sara Sims
Office Assistant
Teale Pose
AmeriCorps Youth
Outreach Assistant

Iowa 4-H Mission

4-H empowers youth to reach their full potential through youth-adult partnerships and research-based experiences.

Iowa 4-H Vision

Preparing Iowa's youth to be successful, contributing members of society.

Market Beef Animal ID

ALL Market Beef must be entered BY THE FAMILIES by February 1, 2022.

Families will enter the animal information into 4-H Online. You must be enrolled and approved to enter your animal. This is for county and state fair animals. After February 1, the county 4-H staff will double-check the entries with paperwork filled out at weigh-in.

This includes putting registration numbers/breed information into the system by February 1 for state fair beef. "Pending" for the registration number blank is not acceptable.

Check out the help sheet :<https://www.extension.iastate.edu/mahaska/news/4-h-online-20-details>.

Market Beef that were identified at the December weigh-in must be entered in 4-H Online 2.0/FFA Google Form by February 1, 2022. *If you find any detail that is wrong on the paper ID, please call our office or email vermeerA@iastate.edu.* If you do not enter your animal into 4-H Online 2.0 or the FFA Google Form by February 1, it will not be eligible to be exhibited at county and/or state fair!

Clover Kids Corner

In December, the Clover Kids used the Engineering Design Process to build gingerbread houses, read Gingerbread Baby by Jan Brett, and played with gingerbread playdough!



In January, Clover Kids will be exploring Snow and Blizzards! We will be practicing our measuring skills and learning what we need to survive a snow emergency. Clover Kids t-shirts will be ordered in January!

Holiday Office Closure

We will be closed on Monday, January 17, 2022 in observance of Martin Luther King Day.

Club Recruitment Contest

Each club has been challenged to recruit new members. The club with the highest percentage of growth will be awarded an Ice Cream Party! This contest ended on December 31 and we are tallying the results. We will contact the winning club soon!

4-H Club Fundraiser Approvals

If your 4-H Club plans to complete a fundraiser this year, please complete a Fundraiser Request form and turn in to 4-H Staff. If you would like to receive a Fundraiser Request Form, please contact the Extension office. This form is required to comply with the Iowa 4-H Club Financial Policy.

Sara Martindale Departure

At the end of December, Sara Martindale, County Youth 4-H Coordinator decided that due to a family health concern, she would no longer be able to work with the Mahaska County Extension office. Her time was short but very sweet! The families and volunteers of Mahaska County 4-H are outstanding and a pleasure to work with!

Until a new 4-H Coordinator is hired, questions regarding 4-H can be directed to Amy Brainard, 4-H Outreach Coordinator, and Sara Sims, Office Assistant. Amy can be reached at vermeerA@iastate.edu and Sara can be reached at sjsims@iastate.edu.

Now Hiring: 4-H Youth Coordinator

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach - Mahaska County is seeking to hire a 4-H County Youth Coordinator. The primary role of the 4-H CYC is to empower youth to reach their full potential through Youth-Adult Partnerships and research-based experiences. This full-time position provides leadership, education and management of Mahaska County 4-H youth development programs serving K-12 youth of Mahaska County. This position requires the ability to manage, facilitate, and deliver youth development programs with dependability and confidentiality; as well as create and maintain internal and external partnerships. Knowledge of ISU Extension and Outreach 4-H Youth Development is preferred. Visit <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/mahaska/news/4-h-youth-coordinator-position-opening> to access job posting.

4-H Club Attendance Policy

Mahaska County has a 75% attendance policy in place for 4-H members of community and special-interest clubs. Members attending at least 75% of their clubs' meetings, activities, and/or pre-approved 4-H experiences will have eligibility to exhibit at the county fair.

Clubs can set their own parameters within the 75% policy. We recommend that if members are part of an *additional* special interest club, like Honor Council, that their attendance combined for both will count toward the 75%.

4-H Honor Council

The next Honor Council meeting will be held on **Sunday, January 16 at 2:00 PM at White Oak Estates** 914 N 12th Street in Oskaloosa.

Honor Council members will be playing BINGO with the residents and holding their regular meeting afterwards. **Please wear a mask** and be prepared to be screened upon arrival. Dan Nieland, Community and Economic Development Coordinator for Mahaska, Marion, & Jasper Counties, will be joining the meeting to discuss the Farm to Table Dinner.

International Exchange Program

The deadline for eligible youth and adults to apply to participate in IFYE or States' 4-H Exchange is January 15. States' 4-H Exchange is open to 12-18-year-old 4-H members and IFYE is open to 4-H alumni aged 19 and older. Outbound delegates live with volunteer host families in another country and engage in experiential learning about a different way of life and cultural immersion. Visit <https://go.iastate.edu/BLNBOP> to learn more.

YQCA for Livestock Exhibitors

YQCA stands for Youth for the Quality Care of Animals and is required for 4-H & FFA members exhibiting Poultry, Rabbits, Sheep, Beef, Dairy, Swine, Meat Goat, & Myotonic Goat. It is not required for Bucket/Bottle, Llama/Alpaca, or Horse project exhibitors.

YQCA is an online training that can be completed at home or at the Extension office (by appointment). Cost to take the online training is \$12.00 each year. Those who complete a financial aid application at the Extension office will automatically receive a coupon code to use.

YQCA must be completed by **JULY 1** for members to be eligible to exhibit livestock at the county and/or state fair. The YQCA online program includes three components for each topic (food safety, animal well-being, and character development): 1) knowledge building, 2) skills lab, 3) quiz for each content topic, and are designed specifically for each age group. The online program is very interactive, bright, colorful, relatable, and fun! More information can be found at <http://yqca.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/GettingYourYQCAOnlineCertification.pdf>.

Bucket/Bottle Animal Birthdates

Bucket/Bottle Calves must be born between:

February 1 and April 30, 2022

Bottle Lambs & Goats must be born between:

January 1 and April 30, 2022

All bucket/bottle animals must be in the youth exhibitor's possession within two weeks of the animal's birth and must be bottle/bucket fed. Packets for Bucket/Bottle animals will be available by the beginning of January. We are currently revising the Bottle Lamb & Goat packets. If you get an animal before the packets are available, please start keeping a journal of feedings, care, housing, cleaning, etc. and remember to take pictures! All bucket/bottle animals must be identified in 4HOnline by 11:59 p.m. on May 15, 2022. You may identify more than one bucket/bottle animal, but may only exhibit one of each at the fair. Bucket/Bottle Calves, Bottle Lambs, and Goats do not need to attend a weigh-in.

Llama/Alpaca Project Requirements

Anyone with questions about exhibiting Llamas or Alpacas or who wants to learn more about the Llama/Alpaca project area or to lease a Llama/Alpaca, please contact Merle Mann at 641-295-2740.

Rabbit Superintendent Update

Welcome Tapanga Blom! She was approved to be a Rabbit Superintendent for the Southern Iowa Fair in 2022. She will join Adam Antolik. MaKayla Stittsworth has decided to step down from her position as rabbit superintendent. If you have questions regarding the Rabbit project area, Adam can be reached at 641-660-4860 and Tapanga can be reached at 641-780-5014.

Horse Clinics and Ride Nights

Every 4-H & FFA member who plans to exhibit horses, ponies, donkeys, or mules at the 2022 Southern Iowa Fair must complete at least 1 clinic and 2 ride nights to gain eligibility at the county fair.

April 5 - Review rules, legal equipment, requirements to show at fair, and grooming (no horses needed)

April 19 - Halter/Showmanship Clinic

May 3 - TBD

May 17 - TBD

June 7 - TBD

June 19 - Open Youth Invitational Show

June 21 - TBD

July 12 - TBD

Vet Check Date TBD

More clinic & ride night topics will be released as they are confirmed. Keep an eye on the Mahaska County 4-H Facebook page, the 4-H & FFA Horse Project Facebook group, and the Extension website.

If you have any questions about the Horse Project Area, please contact a Horse Superintendent listed below:

Heather Angle-Gardner—h_ponygirl@yahoo.com 641-777-2334

Jodi Wilcox—jodihillwilcox@gmail.com 641-295-6490

Marcy Wanders—marcywanders5@yahoo.com 515-238-2609

4-H Agri-Science Summit

Youth in grades 9-12 can apply to be a part of the State 4-H team, led by Maya Hayslett and Lynne Campbell, for the National 4-H Agri-Science Youth Summit. The Summit will be in Washington D.C. from March 10-13 and selected youth will receive free registration! Youth are responsible for \$200 for travel to DC.

Application deadline is January 4 using the online form at <https://form.jotform.com/213065480025043>. For more information visit the national website at <https://4-h.org/parents/national-youth-summits/> or contact Maya Hayslett at hayslett@iastate.edu with any questions.

Camera Corps Opportunity

Like to take photos? Want to participate in a statewide group to creatively explore something that may be new to you while having fun using photography and social media? Apply for Iowa 4-H Camera Corps! Learn more at <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/projects/iowa-4-h-camera-corps>.

State 4-H Recognition

NOW is the time to apply for Iowa 4-H Recognition! 4-H members from across the state are applying for opportunities beyond the county-level.

Those opportunities include National 4-H Conference, National 4-H Congress, State 4-H Council, Iowa 4-H Reporter Program, Iowa 4-H Healthy Living Ambassadors, Iowa STEM Leadership Accelerators, Teen Equity Influencers, and State 4-H Project Awards.

The application process opens on January 1, 2022 and the deadline to apply is February 1, 2022.

Participants will participate in either in-person interviews on Saturday, March 26 or video interviews on March 19 or March 22. To learn more, visit <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/recognition-opportunities>.

If you would like assistance with your application/interview process, please register for the upcoming Statewide Workshops by registering under the Events tab in 4H Online.

How to Write a State Recognition Application:

Wednesday, January 5, 4PM

How to Write a One-Page Resume:

Thursday, January 13, 4PM

How to Prepare for an Interview:

Tuesday, March 1, 4PM

Ricochet Update

The Oskaloosa Middle School Ricochet Leadership Group has wrapped up another great year of programs! They met weekly on early-out Wednesdays to do activities focused on leadership, decision making, communication, and stress management. They planned and implemented a Cocoa for a Cause fundraiser at Oskaloosa Middle School to raise funds for their service project and held a wonderful one-day service project on November 23rd. They provided doughnuts and pastries for OMS staff, cleaned a local bike trail, cleaned up a parking lot at the Oskaloosa Elementary School, assisted with animals at the Stephen Memorial Animal Shelter, and aided Crisis Intervention Services by sorting and organizing a storage unit. They have grown as a team and are effective communicators.



If you are interested in learning more about the Ricochet program, please contact Amy Brainard, Youth Outreach Coordinator, at vermeerA@iastate.edu or 641-673-5841 ext. 28.

4-H Maker Lab

The 4-H Maker Lab is open and available by appointment. We have a wide variety of items available to use on-site and some items available for check-out. A minimal fee will be applied for the use of the Cricut Maker and 3D Printers. Strawbees are fun kits that can be checked out by our clubs. Strawbees building kits include versatile connectors and building straws for bringing ideas to life by rapid prototyping. They are ideal for hands-on, screen-free, and playful learning. Additionally, we have a Strawbees binder full of building tips, lessons, and guides. Strawbees have been a big hit with our 4-H Outreach Classroom visits! To schedule your visit to the 4-H Maker Lab, please contact Amy Brainard, 4-H Outreach Coordinator, at vermeerA@iastate.edu or 641-673-5841.

Statewide Clothing and Sewing Project

Iowa 4-H is excited to offer a virtual club experience to those in 9th-12th grade interested in Clothing and Sewing. The Iowa 4-H Enthusiasts will meet virtually each month and will partner with Iowa 4-H professionals and Joi Mahon, fashion entrepreneur and author, to advance their knowledge and skills in the project area while completing technical skill building challenges!

This is a very exciting and unique opportunity for youth to gain project area skills in addition to being an active member of your 4-H club!

Registration must be completed by January 3, 2022.

To register, 4-H members log into their 4-H Online profile and visit the 4-H Events tab on 4-H Online. There is no cost to register to participate and some project materials will be provided to Enthusiasts.

Mahaska County Code of Conduct

Every 4-H member in Mahaska County is required to complete the Mahaska County 4-H Code of Good Conduct form one time ever. Deadline to complete the Code of Conduct, either paper form or electronic form, is May 15, 2022. This form must be submitted in order for 4-H members to be eligible to exhibit at the Southern Iowa Fair. Visit <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/mahaska/news/mahaska-county-4-h-code-good-conduct-form> to learn more.

*This newsletter was prepared and written by
Amy Brainard, County Youth Outreach Coordinator. Amy can be
reached by calling 641-673-5841 ext. 28 or by
emailing vermeerA@iastate.edu.*

Citizenship Washington Focus Trip

Registration for the annual CWF trip is now open for 4-H members in 9th-12th grades. CWF is a national 4-H leadership and civic engagement program for high school youth. Each summer teens gather in Washington DC to learn what it means to be a strong leader in their community, country, and world. The Iowa delegation will travel to Washington D.C. by charter bus from **June 17-June 24, 2022**. Youth can register via the events tab in 4HOnline and the **deadline to register is January 25, 2022**. The cost of the trip per youth is \$1,800 and several fundraising and financial assistance options, as well as trip agenda and Covid details, are shared on the Iowa 4-H CWF website (<https://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/cwf>) for youth and families to look into. The Mahaska County Extension Council will provide some financial assistance for this trip. Contact Haley Jones with questions at hjones@iastate.edu.

Iowa Legislative Insider

Iowa 4-H and the Iowa Extension Council Association are excited to host the Iowa Legislative Insider event in Des Moines on **Wednesday, February 9th!** This event is open to 4-H members in 8th-12th grades and county Extension Council members. Participants will learn about the life of a legislative page, hear from legislators, explore the role a lobbyist plays in crafting legislation and participate in interactive workshops surrounding civil discourse, youth-adult partnerships, and more. Check <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/ieca-and-4-h-legislative-day> for details. 4-H members and 4-H volunteers can register through the 'Events' tab in 4HOnline. Extension council members and other adults can register at <https://go.iastate.edu/SLHZND>. Deadline to register is February 1st.

Iowa 4-H Foundation Scholarships

Are you an Iowa 4-H'er planning to attend college? The Iowa 4-H Foundation knows it's not easy to finance a college education, and they know that many Iowa 4-H'ers can use help achieving their educational goals. Consider applying for an Iowa 4-H Scholarship, funded by donors through the Iowa 4-H Foundation. The current scholarship program offers over 90 scholarships worth more than \$100,000. Scholarships range in value from \$250 to \$5,000. Learn more about Iowa 4-H Foundation Scholarships at www.iowa4hfoundation.org/scholarships.

Maker Monday Workshop Series

Maker Mondays will be held on the fourth Monday of each month from 5:00-6:00 p.m. at the Extension office. Maker Mondays are open to anyone in 4th-12th grade, not just 4-H members. Each session is limited to 15.

January 31 - MAKE them Fly: Creating Catapults

We'll learn about simple physics while creating our own Marshmallow Catapults!

February 28 - The Road to CODE: Sphero Robotics

We'll learn about coding using the Sphero robots!

March 28 - MAKE it 3D: 3D Printing

We'll learn how to use the MakerBot Sketch 3D printers and 3D printing pens!

RSVP is due by 4:30 p.m. on the Friday before each session.

5 RSVPs are required to hold a session.

Volunteer Resources Tips & Tools

Iowa 4-H is excited to share a new learning opportunity for our 4-H volunteers. We are offering a Volunteer Lunch & Learn series via Zoom in the months of January through April 2022. The lunch & learn series consists of four brief 15-20 minutes sessions that dive into topics that 4-H volunteers can apply to their role. **The sessions will be held on the first Friday of the month at Noon.** The Lunch & Learn series is an opportunity for volunteers to gain new ideas, tips, and resource information that can be implemented into 4-H clubs and programming. We hope the quick 15-20 minute sessions provide an additional support to you in your volunteer role with Iowa 4-H!

Volunteer Lunch & Learn Series Dates & Topics:

- **January 7 at Noon** will focus on icebreakers and games. Be sure to jump on this Zoom to gain new icebreaker ideas to implement into clubs and programs!
- **February 4 at Noon** - Learn from a 4-H volunteer on how incorporating yearly club themes and projects into their Club has been successful
- **March 4 at Noon** - Learn about accommodations-information and tips on making 4-H accessible for all
- **April 1 at Noon** - Learn resources & supports to help prepare youth for the fair.

All of the sessions can be accessed on Zoom at <http://go.iastate.edu/ROBG6A>. We hope to “see” many of our Iowa 4-H volunteers on the lunch & learn series and that as volunteers you are able to take away new ideas to support the volunteer leader role with Iowa 4-H. Thank you for volunteering with Iowa 4-H!

- Shelly Ramus, Iowa 4-H Volunteer Development Specialist



Mahaska County
212 North I Street
Oskaloosa, Iowa 52577

Helping make 4-H possible
in Mahaska County.



United Way
of Mahaska County

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