

Polk County 4-H CLOVER POWER

(515) 957-5760 www.extension.iastate.edu/polk/4h

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November 2023 ISSUE

FOCUS

Keep up with the most important deadlines and announcements related to Polk County 4-H.

Enrollment 2.0 is OPEN!

4-H Online enrollment is live for the 2023-2024 program year! To access the website, visit [4-H Online 2.0](#), and use the same email and password as last year. Youth in 4-H (4th-12th grade) are \$50 and youth in Clover Kids (K-3rd grade) are \$5. Financial assistance is available to anyone who may need it through the [Iowa 4-H Foundation](#). You can also find a [help sheet](#) located on the Iowa 4-H page to assist you with the registration process. Remember, 4-H members must be enrolled in order to participate in Polk County 4-H programs. While the deadline is May 15, youth are not covered under our insurance until they are enrolled and approved in 4-H Online.

Fair Themes Needed

Help the fair board pick the fair theme. They are currently looking for theme submissions from clubs or individuals. The Board is asking for a logo (computer or hand-drawn) and theme. Send submissions to Marci by January 16, 2024, 5:00 pm. The fair board will then select the theme at their January Meeting.

Fair Dates

Polk County Fair | July 13-19, 2024

Iowa 4-H Foundation College Scholarships

The Iowa 4-H Foundation has announced applications are available for the 4-H scholarship program with over 90 scholarship opportunities to be awarded valued at over \$100,000. A complete list of scholarships, eligibility, helpful hints, instructions, and [applications are available online](#). Online deadline is 11:59 PM, March 1. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Marci.

CWF: Citizenship Washington Focus

For 7 days, teens from around the nation will gather to have meaningful discussions, hear from

prominent speakers, influential leaders, and engaging young people who have created an impact. They will connect with 500 other teens and learn the skills they need to lead their local communities and become change agents to build a brighter future.

Mark your calendars for June 15-22, 2024, to be part of this exciting trip! Registration cost is \$3000 for teens, \$1500 for adult chaperones. The cost covers lodging, travel, and many meals. Registrations are requested by January 22, 2024. To learn more, visit the [Iowa 4-H CWF webpage](#). Make plans today to strengthen your communication, leadership, and civic engagement skills while exploring our nation's capital city.

Pop Tabs for Jacey Collection in Motion

The State 4-H Council is carrying Jacy McAlexander's legacy through their 7th annual "Pop Tabs for Jacy" initiative. The top 5 counties to collect the most poundage by State 4-H Conference will be recognized at the Iowa 4-H Youth Conference. You are able to drop tabs off at the extension office or with one of our state council members.

Pioneer Seed Grants

Have a club project idea needing financial assistance? \$50 - \$500 is available to 4-H clubs for their community improvement projects through our Pioneer Seed Money grants. Applications are due to the county offices by January 16 and must be passed along to the state office by January 30, 2024. For application materials, tips, and more info, check out the [website](#). For questions, contact [Madeleine Bretey-Smith](#).

Iowa Farm Bureau Scholarships

The Iowa Farm Bureau Federation (IFBF) and many of its 100 county Farm Bureaus offer a variety of scholarships at the state and local level to high school seniors accepted into an accredited institution of higher education (i.e. Technical College, Junior College, Community College, College or University).

To apply for these scholarships, you only need to submit one application, which will enter you for a chance to receive the state and local Farm Bureau scholarships available to you. Eligibility for all Farm Bureau scholarships is reserved for current IFBF members (and their children) who are in good standing with the organization. To become a member, it is a \$35 membership fee. To be considered, a graduating high school senior must have a minimum 2.5 grade point average (GPA), be involved in extra-curricular activities, and be accepted into an accredited higher education institution (including community colleges and technical schools).

Wednesday, January 31, 2024 is the deadline to apply for Farm Bureau scholarships. Applications are available online at <https://www.iowafarmbureau.com/Member-Benefits/Iowa-Farm-Bureau-Scholarships>

SPOTLIGHT

Check out these highlights from clubs across the county.

Bright Sparks 2023-24 Officer Team

Bright Sparks is proud to announce its newly-elected club officers for 2023-2024! Blakelyn Wohlrabe (Historian), Stone Heuer (Recreation Leader), Jerrod Van Wyk (Secretary), Harrison Smith (Vice President),

Sophia Schulenburg (President), Colton Steil-Todd (Reporter), and David Schulenburg (Treasurer). Not pictured: Kurtis Johnson and Lilly Thomasen (Photographers).



Urbandale 4-H receives behind the scenes tour of the Urbandale Public Library

The highlight of the tour was looking through the wall of the drive-thru drop off. Over 45,000 card holders checked out more than 560,000 items last year.



Clover Power Submission Deadlines

Email submissions for Clover Power to **Megan AND Marci**.

- For January, submit by 12/21
- For February, Submit by 1/29

ANIMAL & LIVESTOCK NEWS

See what events are happening in the livestock world.

Weigh-in and Tagging Dates

Please mark your calendars with the following weigh-in date:

- Beef – Saturday, December 16, 2023 from 8:00 am-11:00 am at the Iowa State Fair Grounds Cattle Barn
- Swine tagging – Saturday, April 20, 2024 from 8:00 am-11:00 am at the Iowa State Fair Grounds Sheep Barn
- Sheep and Goat – Saturday, April 27, 2024 from 8:00 am-12:00 am at the Iowa State Fair Grounds Sheep Barn

Beef, and sheep may be weighed-in in any county as the processes are very similar. If you choose to attend another county's weigh-in, please coordinate this in advance with **Marci** or 515-

957-9770. Swine for the Polk County Fair **MUST** be tagged in on our date due to varying county processes. Goats must also be ID at the Polk County Fair weigh-in date.

Youth For The Quality Care Of Animals (YQCA)

Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) formally FSQA. **EVERYONE'S** certification will expire before fair!

This is a required certification for all youth who exhibit the following animals at the county or state fair. Certification needs to be completed by July 1.

- Cattle- Breeding, Market & Dairy
- Swine- Breeding & Market
- Sheep- Breeding & Market
- Goats- Breeding, Market & Dairy
- Poultry
- Rabbits

Below are the options for training for the 2024 fair Season.

- Online YQCA class option for all age levels (Certification is good for 1 year)
 - Please note that the online option will cost you \$12/youth- Payable online only
<https://yqcaprogram.org/login/index.php>
- Youth will have 3 quizzes that they will need to pass with an 80% above. If youth do not pass a quiz they will be locked out for 1 hour and then have an opportunity to pass again without paying additional fees. This can be done as many times as necessary.
- Face to Face class options: (Certification is good for 1 year)
 - Please note that the Face to Face option will cost you \$3/youth- Payable online only
 - Pre-registration is required via <https://yqcaprogram.org/login/index.php>
 - There is a pre-test and a post test that youth will need to complete to get their certificate
 - March 7, 2024 | YQCA Training 6:00 – 8:00 pm
 - March 15, 2024 | YQCA Training 1:00 – 3:00 pm

ATTENTION: LEADERS!

Important information for leaders and volunteers.

Leader Turnover and Volunteer Training

If your club is experiencing leader turnover or welcoming new leaders to assist the club, please be sure to follow the required onboarding process. Clubs that fail to follow the process below will be placed in provisional status. Contact Megan as soon as there are new and/or additional leaders.

New volunteers must:

- Complete and successfully pass background check
- Meet with Megan for a volunteer interview
- Watch volunteer training videos in 4-H online
- Attend new volunteer training.

Returning leaders and volunteers must still complete volunteer training on 4-H Online. 4-H Online will open for the new program year on September 15th.

Clover Power Submission Deadlines

In addition to email you can now submit your Spotlight and other club submissions through this Spotlight [submission form](#)

Email submissions for *Clover Power* to **Megan AND Marci**

- For December, submit by 11/27
- For January, submit by 12/21
- For February, submit by 1/29
- For March, Submit by 2/26
- For April, submit by 3/25
- For May, submit by 4/25
- For June, submit by 5/27
- For July, submit by 6/24
- For August, submit by 7/29

CALENDAR

Important information for leaders and volunteers.

December

6 County Council Meeting 7:00 pm
16 Beef Weigh-in 8:00-11:00 am
20 Fair Board Meeting 7:30 pm
25-26 Office Closed, Happy Holidays!

January

1 Office Closed, Happy New Years!
3 County Council Meeting 7:00 pm
15 Office Closed
17 Fair Board Meeting 7:30 pm

[2023-2024 Program Calendar](#)

CONTACT

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Megan Freel

County Youth Coordinator
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Connect with us!



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