

Polk County 4-H CLOVER POWER

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OCTOBER 2023 ISSUE

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Spotlight: Highlights from clubs around the county.

Events & Opportunities: Upcoming events and opportunities in Polk County and across the state.

Attention Leaders: Training, meetings, and other volunteer-related information.

Endowment Updates: Learn more about their latest projects and fundraising efforts.

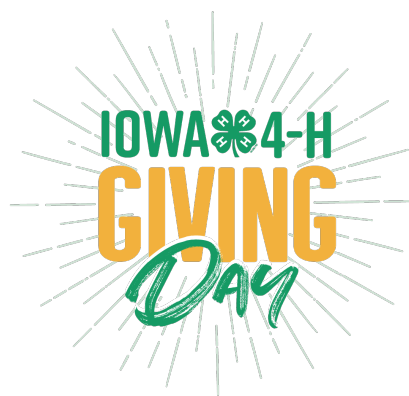
Calendar: Event, meetings, workshops, deadlines

At a Glance

October 3-4 is Iowa 4-H Giving Day!

Reminder, the annual Iowa 4-H Giving Day will take place noon to noon October 3-4!

This year our goal is the biggest yet. Help us **reach \$5,000 in 24 hours!** [Book mark our Giving Day page](#) and donate within the 24 hour period to help Polk County 4-H. These funds support local county youth. Dollars raised help us offer innovative programs, supply materials for projects, and provide scholarships and financial support for those in need!



Also, visit our [Facebook page](#) throughout the day where we will share challenges and matching opportunities - allowing your donation to go even further.

Lastly, simply share the fundraiser on your social accounts and use the hashtag #GrowIowa4H or tag us sharing your stories about how 4-H inspired you!

FOCUS

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

New Financial Policy Update

Effective 9/25/2023 EXTENSION will not reimburse clubs for gift cards to follow the newly revised Polk County Extension Fiscal Policy. In addition 4-H Clubs will need to submit a copy of club minutes with every finance claim request indicating club approval of the expense. Clover Kids clubs are exempt as they do not keep minutes. For more information about the new Polk County Extension Policy, [click here](#).

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.

Annual County Awards

Annual Awards are a great opportunity to showcase all the new knowledge you've gained this year! It is a common misconception that youth can only apply for an award for a project they entered at the fair. 4-H Annual Awards is about explaining what you've learned regarding a specific topic and how you can share that with others. Youth able to apply for an award for any topic that they learned about, and they can also nominate others. This includes a peer, for something awesome that they've done throughout the year, or maybe there is a caring adult in their 4-H life that they would like to have honored at the Awards Ceremony, there's an award for that too.

The applications and descriptions for the 2023 Awards are available [here](#), toward the bottom of the page. Youth will also have the opportunity to interview with a judge as part of the application process. All applications/nominations are due to [Megan Free!](#) by 12 pm on Oct. 3.

Award interviews will be held in October, with dates to be announced later. (Accommodations for interviews are available.) Awards will be announced and celebrated on Sunday, November 12, in the afternoon. The location is TBD.

Club Officer Training

The Officer Training workshop will be held Thursday, November 16, from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at the Polk County Extension Office. The workshop will include an overview of parliamentary procedure, working together as a group, and practicing the skills of their office. County Council will lead the workshop and provide FREE pizza for all who attend!

Please [register](#) by November 14.

SPOTLIGHT

Check out these highlights from clubs across the county.

Polk County 4-H T-Shirt Quilt Silent Auction

Those who attended the Polk County Fair may have heard about the Polk County Endowment Committee and seen the beautiful 4-H T-Shirt Quilt that we were attempting to raffle. Unfortunately, technical errors forced us to cancel the raffle. Fortunately, there is still a way that you can own this beautiful quilt, and help Polk County 4-Hers at the same time. The Polk County Endowment Committee is holding a silent auction for the quilt from now through November 12th. You can access the silent auction now by going to www.32auctions.com/Polkcountyquilt.

This quilt is made from t-shirts from past Polk County Fairs. The fabric is from the 2023 Iowa Shop Hop collection depicting scenes & themes from the Iowa

State Fair. The fabric was designed by Iowa-based artist Suzanne Aunan & sponsored by Maywood Studios. If you look closely at the fabric, you will see Pioneer Hall & Grandfather's Farm! The quilt was made and donated by Brenda Gill, who is the current president of the Polk County 4-H Endowment Committee

The Polk County 4-H Endowment Committee exists to raise and manage funds for the sustainability of the Polk County 4-H Endowment with the goal of enriching the lives of current and future 4-H'ers

Funds raised by the Polk County 4-H Endowment Committee will be used for initiatives to assist Polk County 4-H'ers such as:

- Assisting with/covering club enrollment fees
- Providing scholarships for Polk County 4-H'ers to attend State and National 4-H council
- County awards and scholarships



The list above is a glimpse of what the committee is planning to do, but we need to GROW our funds! Our vision is to expand the fund to enable support of Polk County 4-H'ers for future generations.

If you are interested in helping us reach that goal, please consider going to our Polk County 4-H silent auction at www.32auctions.com/Polkcountyquilt and placing a bid on this beautiful, one-of-a-kind, Polk County 4-H T-Shirt Quilt.

Clover Power Submission Deadlines

Email submissions for Clover Power to [Megan](#) AND [Marci](#).

- For November, submit by 10/26
- For December, submit by 11/27

ANIMAL & LIVESTOCK NEWS

See what events and opportunities 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.

Horse Exhibitor Meeting

All Polk County Horse Exhibitors: The Annual Exhibitors Meeting will be Wednesday, November 1 at 6:30 p.m. at the Extension office. Come with your ideas, your concerns, your feedback about clinics, classes, show management, fundraising, etc. We'll discuss clinics, open shows, and county fairs. See you then!

ATTENTION! LEADERS

Important information for leaders and volunteers.

Sign up for your Fall One on One

Leaders, if you have not already signed up for your Fall One-on-One, please do so as soon as possible. These meetings are for two-way feedback, ensuring chartering standards are met, and discussing ways to ensure success for the upcoming program year. This year, the meetings will take place on a few different days throughout September and October. All club leaders should attend the meeting together. At the meeting, you will receive the premium checks for your club members. Use this [link](#) to sign up.

Questions, contact [Megan](#).

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.

CALENDAR

Important information for leaders and volunteers.

October

1-7 National 4-H Week
3 County Award Applications Due
17 County Award Interviews 5:00-9:00 pm
18 Fair Board Meeting 7:30 pm
19 County Award Interviews 5:00-9:00 pm
22 County Council Retreat 12:00 pm

November

1 County Council Meeting 7:00 pm
12 County Awards Ceremony TBD
15 Fair Board Meeting 7:30 pm
16 Club Officer Training 6:30 pm
23-24 Office Closed, Happy Thanksgiving!

[2023-2024 Program Calendar](#)

CONTACT

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Connect with us!



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