

POLK COUNTY 4-H CLOVER POWER

1625 Adventureland Drive, Suite A • Altoona, Iowa 50009 • 515-957-5760 • June 2023 Issue

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Focus: Deadlines and announcements.

Animal & Livestock News:
Updates for livestock and animal exhibitors.

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Upcoming events and opportunities within Polk County 4-H and across the state.

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Check out important information about the 2023 Polk County Fair.

Calendar & Contacts:
Listing of events, meetings, workshops, and deadlines, and how to reach us.

July at a Glance

- The Polk County Fair begins July 15th—make sure to read through this month's newsletter for more details and announcements!
- Questions about exhibits, rules, and forms for the fair? Visit [the Polk County Fair website](#) to access the fairbook, schedule of events, and download forms.

- **Fair Entries are due on SATURDAY, JULY**

1. The Extension

Office will be closed,
and 4-H staff will be
unavailable.

If you need
assistance with fair
entry, please reach
out Thursday or
Friday. We will not
be checking email or
phone Saturday.

Please do not
contact staff on
personal phones or social media.



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FOCUS

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

Silent Auction Baskets

This year Polk County Youth Council is excited to announce the return of silent auction baskets. We want your help filling all the baskets! We are asking that 4-H clubs, individuals, or groups, sponsor a basket to have raffled off at this year's Polk County Fair. Some ideas are a game night basket, a spa basket, or even a basket about your favorite project area! We are excited to see what you all come up with! Please fill out this [Google Form](#) with your basket information.

Baskets must be dropped off at the County Council booth in the 4-H Building on the evening of July 14th during booth setup **or** on July 15th during judging day.

4-H Band for the National Anthem

We are looking for youth to play in the National Anthem Band for this year's Polk County Clover Dash 5K! There will be a pre-rehearsal on Tuesday, July 11 at 6 pm at the Polk County Extension Office, and the National Anthem will be played at 8:20 am on Sunday, July 16 in front of the 4-H Building on the Iowa State Fairgrounds.

If you are interested in playing, please sign up [here](#).

Polk County 4-H and FFA Fair Association Meeting

The Polk County 4-H and FFA Fair Association will hold their Annual Meeting on Wednesday, September 13, 2023 at 7:00 PM, at the Polk County Extension Office.

Directors for each of the four districts of the county and at-large members will be elected for 3-year terms in accordance with the bylaws. Any registered voter in Polk County is eligible to vote for Fair Board members.

If you are interested in holding a position on the Fairboard, please contact Nominating Committee Chair, Brian Wilkinson at 515-202-5317.



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Polk County Fair Blood Drive

Our 2022 Polk County Fair Queen Bridget Johnson is very excited to be hosting a Polk County Fair Blood Drive the morning of July 20th!

As a part of competing for Iowa State Fair Queen, the contenders were challenged to find something to better their community or fair. Bridget understood the true need for blood in our community as her mother was battling leukemia and she donated for the first time herself. This opened her eyes to how much good one person can do from such a small act.

Fun fact, every time you donate you are helping 3 members of your community!

We hope to see you all there, and as you recover feel free to check the fair schedule for some fun events!

If you are unable to donate and would still like to support Bridget is also collecting pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald house.



Polk County Fair Blood Drive

4-H Exhibits Building | Des Moines, Iowa

Thursday, July 20th

8:00 am - 1:30 pm

Text: LIFESERVE to 999.777 | **Call:** 800.287.4903 | **Visit:** lifeserve.info/schedule



LifeServe
BLOOD CENTER

YOUR BLOOD. YOUR HOSPITAL. YOUR NEIGHBORS.



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ANIMAL & LIVESTOCK

Stay connected with Polk County 4-H Animal and Livestock news, deadlines, and requirements.

Poultry Testing

ALL poultry will be required to have pullorum typhoid testing performed within 90 days of the Polk County Fair. Certificates from the hatchery or store of purchase do not qualify as current testing; this certificate is invalid once the birds have entered your farm.

We will offer one more testing day at the Polk County Extension Office in Altoona on Thursday, July 6, 6:00-8:00 pm.

Youth Open Class Tagging Requirements

Any animal that will be shown in a youth open class show at the Polk County Fair needs to come to the fair with a vet-issued health paper. In the past families have run into issues with their animals not having an official id. An official id is one of the following:

- USDA approved RFID (white button or bigger plastic tag that can be scanned)
- Brucellosis tag (orange metal tag)
- Registered tattoo with registration paper (for purebreds)
- Other USDA tags (silver metal tags with the US shield)
- 4-H USDA tags
- 4-H EID USDA tags
- Scrapie tags for all sheep and goats intact or over 18 months of age

If you do not have access to one of these types of tags: Bucket bottle calf is where this is normally the issue, so if you have one that needs to be tagged, please arrange a time with Marci to bring the animal to the Extension Office. **Due to staff capacity this summer we will not be able to make farm visits.**



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Horse Project Information

REQUIRED HORSE

CLINICS for all juniors (4-6 grade) and any exhibitor showing horses for the first time at Polk County, regardless of age.

Clinics will be held at Prairie Rose Arena, 11045 NE 56th Street, Elkhart, from 6-9 p.m.

Each clinic is conducted by professional trainers/clinicians, and the topics will be announced ahead of time. All Polk County 4-H & FFA members are encouraged to attend; junior 4-H members and first-time exhibitors are REQUIRED to attend three clinics to be eligible to show at the county fair. There is no charge for these clinics, and riders of any experience level will benefit.

Remaining clinic dates:

- Monday, July 3rd
- Monday, July 10th

Join the Facebook group Polk County 4-H Horse for timely updates and more information. And ID THOSE HORSES!



HORSE CLINICS
SAVE THE DATES

MAY-1 Horse Handling & Ring Etiquette ~ Horse Committee ~	MAY-8 Ranch Horse ~ Ashley McLaughlin ~	MAY-15 Trail ~ Brooke Hoven ~	MAY-22 English Equitation ~ Tristen Wigg ~
MAY-29 Topic - To Be Determined ~ TBD ~	JUN-5 Hunter Jumper ~ Laura Reitveld ~	JUN-12 Games: Barrels ~ Lauren Jaschke ~	JUN-19 Jumping ~ Tristen Wigg ~
JUN-26 Horse & Rider Mechanics ~ Kim Matthias ~	JUL-3 Topic - To Be Determined ~ TBD ~	JUL-10 Trail Obstacle Practice & Vet Inspections Offered ~ Horse Committee ~	Time: 6-9PM Location: Prairie Rose Arena, Elkhart

ALL JUNIORS (THOSE WHO'VE COMPLETED GRADES 4-6) AND ANY FIRST-TIME POLK COUNTY HORSE EXHIBITOR, REGARDLESS OF AGE OR EXPERIENCE, MUST ATTEND THREE POLK COUNTY 4-H/FFA CLINICS (OR PROFESSIONALLY HELD & PAID FOR CLINICS) TO BE ELIGIBLE TO SHOW AT THE COUNTY FAIR (FIRST-TIME EXHIBITORS OLDER THAN GRADE 6 MAY BE EXCUSED FROM FURTHER REQUIREMENTS AFTER COMING TO ONE CLINIC IF SUPERINTENDENTS ARE SATISFIED AS TO EXHIBITOR'S ABILITY TO RIDE AND CONTROL THEIR ANIMAL).

*CONTACT MUST BE MADE TO SUPERINTENDENT(S) PRIOR TO CLINIC TO OBTAIN NECESSARY FORMS FOR COMPLETION BY CLINICIAN.



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EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

Upcoming events and opportunities from Polk County 4-H and throughout the state.

Polk County Fair Teen Dance and Fun Night

The Polk County Council is excited to announce we will be putting on a Teen Dance and Fun Night at the 2023 Polk County Fair. As this is our first year, we are spreading the word in hopes to find chaperones. **The dance and fun night will be held Monday, July 17th from 7-10 pm.** Your help and ideas would be greatly appreciated, please feel free to fill out the following forms for chaperone interest or song requests. Don't hesitate to contact Emma Lihs (lihsemma26@gmail.com) with any further questions!

[Song Request Form](#)

[Chaperone Interest Form](#)



Polk County Fair Movie Night

Join us for an evening with free snacks, fun, and friends on Wednesday, July 19th during the Polk County Fair. At 8pm, we'll be watching *The Lorax*.



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Bacon Buddies and Friends

Back this year is Bacon Buddies but this year with friends! We need your help recruiting special needs youth as well as 4-H and FFA members to participate in this program. This year youth with special needs will be paired with 4-H and FFA exhibitors to exhibit swine or goats.

If you know of a youth who is interested, please have them fill out this [form](#). If you are a 4-H or FFA exhibitor, please fill out this [form](#), you must be exhibiting swine or goats at the county fair and be willing to use your own animal. **The show will happen on July 20 at the Polk County Fair.**

9th Annual Clover Dash 5k

Please join us for the 8th Annual Polk County Clover Dash 5K on July 16, 8:30 am at the Iowa State Fairgrounds. This race is in memory of former County Youth Coordinator, Joy Niklasen.

All 4-Her's, Clover Kids, families and friends are invited to participate as a runner in the 5K or as a volunteer. All proceeds go to Polk County 4-H youth activities.

[Registration](#) for runners and volunteers is now open.

For updates, follow us on Instagram: @polkcountycloverdash

And on Facebook: @polkcountycloverdash5K

Livestock Skill-A-Thon

Back for 2023 is the Livestock Skill-A-Thon. So what is a Skill-A-Thon? It is an event to test a youth's knowledge of livestock in general. The event will be made up of 10 stations testing knowledge in varying livestock/animal species. Each station will include photos or diagrams of things to identify as well as a word bank for possible answers. Species will include: horse, sheep, swine, meat goat, dairy goat, dog, poultry, rabbit, cattle and pet stock. Potential topics are: breeds, tack, by products, body parts, diseases, methods of ID and meat cuts.

The Skill-A-Thon will take place starting Thursday, July 20 at 9 am, youth must be registered at this time. This contest is open to youth K-12th grade, it will be broken into the following age categories: Pee-Wee (K-3), Junior (4-6), Intermediate (7-8), Senior (9-12). Youth will have the ability to compete in teams of 3 or individually, teams will work individually at each station.

Prizes will be awarded to the top team and top individuals in each age category and ribbons to the top 10. Contact Marci with questions.



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COUNTY FAIR COUNTDOWN

All of the info you need for the Polk County Fair!

2023 Polk County Fair Date

Mark your calendars for July 15-21, 2023!

Entries due: July 1, 2023, Our office will be closed so please plan accordingly!

Clothing Event: Saturday, July 8, 2023

Pre-Fair Meeting Recording

If you were not able to make it for our annual pre-fair meeting in April or May you can view the recording [online](#).

Polk County Fair Entry

2023 Entries will be only done [electronically](#).

- System will not open to receive entries until May 24
 - 4-H & Clover Kids will log-in with 4-H Online information
 - New FFA will need to create a log-in
 - If youth are showing 4-H and FFA they will log-in each way and have 2 separate entries.
 - Help sheets are on the homepage of the webpage.
- Entries can be paid via check, cash or credit card online.
- If people choose to pay by check or cash that is due to our office by July 1, 5 pm NOT postmarked by July 1. Please note the office will be closed on July 1.
- Late entries can still be made 2 days after July 1, but must be done in our office and credit card will not be accepted, a \$50 fee per day is also assessed.

State Fair Entry

State Fair Entries open on June 1.

Iowa State Fair Entries are due July 1, 11:59 pm.

Polk County Fair Book

The fair book has been updated and is live at polkcountyfairiowa.com.

We have some new livestock classes and building exhibit classes please check the fairbook for full details.



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Foods for Iowa 4-H Fairs

Planning to exhibit in food and nutrition at the Polk County Fair? Make sure to check up on the [Foods for Iowa 4-H Fairs](#) document that has been updated. This document and the [AnswerLine](#) set the rules for food safety when it concerns exhibited food for fairs.

Entry Tags

Entry tags will be printed by the Extension Office with the specific info that you entered in Fair Entry. Tags will be mailed the week following July 1. If you plan to make changes to your building exhibits after you have entered, please let us know as soon as possible to be able to print new tags. Please use detailed descriptions when registering.

Livestock Health Papers

Individual Certificates of Veterinary Inspection will be required on livestock exhibited (including Open Class animals) at a county 4-H/FFA fair, and must be inspected when unloaded or shortly thereafter by a livestock superintendents. Superintendents will require health certificates at check-in time or the animal will be removed from the fair grounds. Each show must have an official veterinarian. Health Certificates must be issued within 30 days (14 days for sheep and 7 days for swine) of the county fair.

Dogs, Cats and pets Must have a current rabies certificate. Poultry and birds must be Pullorum-Typhoid test within 90 days of exhibition. Birds must also be free of lice and mites at fair.

How To Prepare Youth For The Fair

The Iowa State 4-H Office has been putting together a video series to help staff with various topics. The following videos are excellent resources for leaders and/or parents to help youth come up with projects and how to prepare them for the fair. [Video Part 1](#) and [Video Part 2](#)

We Need Youth Runners!

We are looking for YOU to help at the Polk County Fair! We're searching for 4-H members to serve as Youth Runners on Saturday, July 15. Runners will help keep judges hydrated, assist 4-H staff, run exhibits to booths, and help set up when and where needed. Our busiest time is 2 pm and after. Great way to get some Silver Cord Hours! Sign up here and select Youth Runner:

<https://forms.gle/1PDVRswpXTTed1SR6>



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County Fair Volunteers

We need adult volunteers for Exhibit Building Judging Day and the Communication Event. We are searching for adults to serve in a variety of capacities.

Volunteering will take place in the 4-H Building on the Iowa State Fairgrounds; parking is free and plentiful. Lunch will be provided for all volunteers for Judging Day and the Communications Event.

Please complete this google form to volunteer: <https://forms.gle/Nb3jzLJ4Mu2wVk7RA>

Clover Kids at the Fair

Clover Kids can enter in the Polk County Fair and take projects (you pay one entry fee but take multiple projects) on Conference Judging Day, Saturday, July 16. Projects include crafts you made throughout the year and/or an exhibit you created specifically for the fair. In previous years, Clover Kids have shown judges: lego projects, homemade jewelry, baked goods, a coloring page, etc. The judging process is a higher level show-and-tell; ALL exhibits that Clover Kids bring will be judged at one time.

- Bucket of Flowers is just that the youth plant and care for a container of flowers,
- Educational presentation is when the youth give a 5-minute or less speech teaching the judge(s) and the audience how to do something.

Clover Kids show animals in Open Class. Please read those sections in the fair book and connect with Marci Vinsand or the animal superintendent if you have any questions about livestock/animals.

Please read the Clover Kid/Open Class sections in the fair book: <http://polkcountyfairiowa.com/>



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2023 CALENDAR

July

1 Polk County & Iowa State Fair Entries Due to
Extension Office
4 Office Closed
5 County Council Meeting 7:00 pm
6 Poultry Testing 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
8 Clothing Event
12 Fair Board Meeting 7:30 pm

July (Continued)

15-21 Polk County Fair

August

10-20 Iowa State Fair

Find the full calendar in an easily accessible document [here!](#) We will be posting the calendar for the 2023-2024 year next month.

CONTACT

If you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to reach out to the Polk County 4-H staff!

Megan Freel

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Marci Vinsand

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ABOUT US

ISU Extension and Outreach, Polk County offers research-based youth development programs aimed at preparing young people for the future. Polk County 4-H and its programs empower youth to reach their full potential through caring youth-adult partnerships, hands-on skill-building projects, and meaningful leadership opportunities. Visit the [Polk County 4-H website](#) to learn more.



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