ADAIR COUNTY 4-H POLICY STATEMENT

Membership Qualifications

1. 4-H community club membership is open to all youth. Youth who have not yet entered 4th grade are considered Discovery members. Youth in grades 4th-6th will be considered juniors. Youth in grades 7th-8th will be considered intermediates. Youth in grades 9th-12th will be considered seniors.

2. Only 4th-12th grade members are eligible to exhibit in competitive classes at the Adair County Fair. Discovery members can participate in a special non-competitive division. Youth must be in at least the 5th grade to compete at the Iowa State Fair. All youth should check for specific age requirements before entering any out-of-county show.

3. A 4-H member becomes ineligible to participate in competitive activities including exhibiting at county, state, or interstate shows at the end of the calendar year of their high school graduation.

4. A youth must complete an enrollment card to be eligible for community club membership. Enrollments will be accepted at any time. However, to be eligible to exhibit at the Adair County Fair or any other 4-H show, members must have turned in an enrollment card by May 15. Members must be enrolled in a project by May 15 to be eligible to exhibit in that project area at any 4-H show including the county fair.

5. A member may hold membership in only one county or state unless special permission is granted. Approval must be secured from the Youth Action Committee. For special permission to participate in the 4-H program in more than one location, contact the Extension office.

6. All community club members are expected to participate in local 4-H meetings, complete a project, and maintain records on their project.

7. The Iowa 4-H program assesses each county 4-H program $10 per community club member per year. Adair County passes on $5 of the fee to local clubs which may choose to pay the assessment through fundraising or member dues. However, no child shall be denied membership in the community club due to their inability to pay club dues or the statewide assessment.

8. Announcements concerning all countywide 4-H activities will be published in the monthly 4-H newsletter. Members are expected to review the newsletter. Information will be posted on the Adair County Extension website [http://www.extension.iastate.edu/adair/](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/adair/) under Kids & Teens.

Good Conduct Policy

Participation in all 4-H activities is a privilege and all members are expected to demonstrate good behavior at all times. Any 4-H member possessing or using alcohol, tobacco, drugs, or who is engaging in an illegal activity during a 4-H event, parents will be notified and will be requested to pick-up their child, immediately. If parents are not available or do not want to pick-up their child, local law officials will be contacted. In addition to being suspended from the activity they were participating in, members will be ineligible to participate in the next 4-H event and be required to complete 5 hours of volunteer service before being eligible to participate in 4-H events. A second offense will result in missing two 4-H events and 10 hours of volunteer service. In the case of a third offense the member must meet with the Youth Action Committee and may be suspended from further participation in 4-H activities.
Special Requirements for Animal Projects

1. All 4-H members must adhere to state rules set forth for identification of livestock for show and the rules in the fair book of the show they participate in.

2. Animals changing ownership after being identified for a project are ineligible to be exhibited as 4-H animals for that 4-H year. Animals offered for sale in an auction are considered to have changed ownership even though bought back by the original owner or if the owner refuses a bid or says, no sale.

3. Animals identified as part of a 4-H project cannot be identified or exhibited as a FFA project or vice versa.

4. All animals must meet health requirements as outlined by the state veterinarian.

5. All market steers and market heifers must be weighed and tagged with an official 4-H ear tag by the annual deadline set in Adair County (late December each year).

6. All swine must be tagged with an official 4-H ear tag by an authorized volunteer by the deadline set annually (late March).

7. All market lambs must be weighed and tagged with an official 4-H ear tag by the annual deadline set in Adair County (mid May).

8. All other animals, with the exception of pets, rabbits, and poultry must be owned and identified by May 15. These animals must be listed on an official 4-H identification paper and the paper must be filed at the Adair County Extension by May 15, to be eligible to be exhibited at any 4-H show.

9. All animals and birds must be owned by the 4-H'er, or in partnership with a family member, and identified by an individual 4-H'er. When registration papers are involved the papers must be in the 4-H'ers or show a logical family relationship. Special exceptions to this rule apply for horses and dogs. For more information concerning the exceptions check the back of the ID form or contact the Extension office.

4-H Community Clubs

1. The 4-H Club year shall run from October 1- September 30.

2. Each club is encouraged to elect officers in September to take office in October. The list of club officers should be turned into the Extension office.

3. Each club should name an organizational leader for their club. Special screening requirements are in place, all new organizational leaders must agree to a DCI background check.

4. Clubs should report annually all volunteers who are assisting with their club. All volunteers will be checked against the statewide registry of sexual offenders. Anyone whose name appears on the list of sexual offenders will not be allowed to volunteer for the 4-H program.

5. Each club should develop an educational program for the year that includes member presentations. The club program should be submitted to the Extension office.

6. Clubs may develop their own set of guidelines for county fair participation including requiring members to attend at least 50% of the club meetings. The guidelines must be distributed to each member and be on file at the Extension office.

7. Each club is encouraged to participate in at least one community service project during the year.

8. Each club is expected to host the 4-H building at the fair, assist with clean-up and work in the 4-H pop stand at their assigned time to be eligible for members to receive premiums.
4-H Youth Council

1. The 4-H Youth Council will be composed of high school age youth that volunteer their time to improve the 4-H program.

2. All youth who wish to serve on the Council must personally notify the Extension office of their intent to participate. The deadline for notifying the Extension office will be published each year in the 4-H newsletter.

County 4-H and Youth Committee

1. The County 4-H and Youth Committee (YAC) will be appointed by the Extension Council to oversee the 4-H program in Adair County.

2. The committee will consist of three people from each of 4 geographic regions in the county. At least one of those representatives must be a youth. In addition, up to 5 at large appointments may be made. In the case of at-large appointments at least 2 of the 5 must be filled by youth. In addition, the Extension Council will appoint one member from their group to serve on the Council.

3. Each term will be two years with the exception of the Extension Council members, which is a one-year term.

4. Members may serve two consecutive two-year terms.

Selection of 4-H Teams to Represent Adair County

1. Anytime team competition exists beyond the county level team try-outs will be arranged. The top scoring individuals in the countywide competition will represent the county. Entry fees for official Adair County horse teams will be paid by the 4-H and FFA Horse Fund. Each youth is limited to have one team entry paid by the fund. In the case of other teams that represent Adair County at the Iowa State Fair or related contests, the 4-H Booster Fund will pay the team entry for one event. All other expenses associated with participation will be the responsibility of individual team members.

Record Books and Awards

1. 4-H records are one of the teaching tools available for 4-H Community Club members. Records are not mandatory, however, only 4-H'ers who have completed a record book for the year will be considered for project awards or special recognition.

2. 4-H records are due each year on October 1.

3. A group of independent judges will review all records submitted and determine awards.

4. A listing of the materials that must be included in a record book is available at the Extension office. Directions can also be found at http://www.extension.iastate.edu/adair/

5. Records must be bound in a notebook or an official 4-H record cover. Covers are available for purchase at the Extension office.

6. All high school members are eligible to apply for state awards regardless of whether or not they have completed a record book, however they must complete the necessary application. For more information about state awards contact the Extension office.
4-H Scholarships

1. The Youth Action Committee and 4-H Youth Council may choose to offer small scholarships to graduating seniors that have been actively engaged in community service projects. These will be announced on an annual basis. Applications will be required. For information and a scholarship form, contact the Extension office well in advance.

Financial Assistance

1. No child should be denied membership in the community club program due to their inability to pay club dues or the statewide assessment. If a child’s lack of ability to pay fees will cause a problem with your club treasury, notify the Extension office. Assistance can be requested from the Iowa 4-H Foundation.

2. Youth and volunteers who would like to participate in out-of-county 4-H events (i.e. camps, conferences) but who can’t afford to pay the full amount may apply to the Iowa 4-H Foundation for assistance. The deadline for application is May 15. Application forms may be obtained at the Extension office.

3. Any Adair County 4-H community club member participating in State 4-H Conference is eligible for partial program reimbursement providing they write a thank-you note within 30 days of the event. First time participants will receive a rebate of 75% of the conference fee and youth who have participated before will receive a rebate of 50% of the conference fee. Any youth that can’t pay the fee up front is encouraged to visit with the county Extension Director.

4. If Adair County 4-H participates in the CWF trip at the county or area level a total of $500 will be allotted to support participants. The money will be divided equally between all participants with no one person receiving more than $100.

5. Any Adair County 4-H community club member attending an official area or Iowa 4-H camp, conference, is eligible for partial program reimbursement providing they write a thank-you note within 30 days of the event. Reimbursement is limited to $35 or ½ the cost of the event, which ever is less. Any youth that can’t pay the fee up front is encouraged to visit with the county Extension Director.

6. A youth may take advantage of only one reimbursement per year in programs outlined in #3, #4, or #5.

7. Any Adair County 4-H’er selected to participate in a National trip, conference, or contest will receive $25 to be used for expenses. This reimbursement can be in addition to support they received as outlined in #3, #4, or #5.