The theme of this year’s National 4-H Week is **Find Your Spark**, which highlights how 4-H encourages kids to take part in hands-on learning experiences in areas such as health, science, agriculture, and civic engagement. The positive environment provided by 4-H mentors ensures that kids in every county and parish in the country—from urban neighborhoods to suburban schoolyards to rural farming communities—are encouraged to take on proactive leadership roles and are empowered with the skills to lead in life and career.

For National 4-H Week in Benton County, we will be featuring recruitment promotions on our Facebook and Instagram pages. Be sure to share these posts to your family and friends and share the good news about 4-H and help other Find Their Spark!
COUNTY YOUTH COUNCIL

A reminder that any 4-H Youth (grades 9-12) can apply to the Benton County Youth Council! You must be currently re-enrolled in 4HOnline and club fees paid.

- **Application Due Date:** October 8 by 4:30PM
- **Application Link:** https://forms.gle/ymqafDMS7kndHM57

BENTON COUNTY YOUTH COUNCIL FEATURED

The 2020-21 Benton County Youth Council were featured in the newspaper in July. If you've ever wondered what is county council or what does the county council do, then click on the link to the fantastic article written by Vinton Newspapers' CJ Ellers.

Vinton Newspapers - County Council Article: https://www.communitynewspapergroup.com/benton-county-youth-council-closes-out-year/article_896d91a3-76de-5e32-843b-b417319fba6b.html

Benton County Youth Council. Front row from left to right: Kalley Bahmann, Olivia Hanson, Rylee Sash, Grayce McClintock, Ellie Karr. Back row: Brian McNulty, Annabelle Newton, Steiger Manson, Gabe Hanson, Clayton McKenna. Not pictured: Lydia Albertsen, Julia Schultis, Alex Ludeking, Kate Hyland.

Photo By CJ Ellers/County Editor/Digital Journalist/news@vintonnewspapers.com

4-H LEADER OF THE YEAR

4-H Club, Cloverbud Members and families... the Leader of the Year award recognizes Club Leaders who share their time and talent as a positive role model to our youth and are a vital part of the Benton County 4-H program!

Please take a moment to consider nominating your club leader for this special recognition! Here’s the link to the Leader of the Year Nomination form: https://iastate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8JmnmtNVUmP7g2

If you would like a paper nomination form, they are available at the Benton County Extension office.

**Nominations are DUE BY:** Friday, October 8, 4:30PM

4-H CLUB NOMINATED AWARDS

4-H and Cloverbud Leaders... please check your email for links to submit the nominees of the Outstanding Members and Most Improved awards!

I will also need your 1 Year / 5 Year and 9 Year members list. Please submit both of these requests by Friday, October 8, 4:30PM.
PLEASE RSVP!

DON'T FORGET!

The Annual Benton County 4-H Awards & Recognitions Celebration is all about Celebrating YOUR Accomplishments!

- Date: November 14
- Time: 4PM
- Location: Tilford Elementary

RSVP

Please RSVP via the following link, no later than Thursday, November 11

- **RSVP LINK:**
  https://iastate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_396LV5i5ahGIMfk

Your RSVP will help us plan accordingly!

AWARDS PRESENTED

- 1 / 5 / 9 Year 4-H Members
- Club Nominated Awards:
  - Outstanding: Cloverbuds / Juniors / Intermediate / Seniors
  - Most Improved: Juniors / Intermediate / Seniors
  - Club Officer Awards for Outstanding: Secretary / Treasurer / Historian Books
  - Project Awards: Juniors / Intermediate / Seniors
  - Intermediate Award: Farmers Savings Bank Award
  - Senior Awards: Achievement Award / I Dare You - Citizenship Award / Leadership Award / Royal Tuttle Award / 4-H Scholarship / Ak-Sar-Ben Award / Agriculture Award / Citizenship Award

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

- County Fair Winners: Herdsmanship / Club Booth
- Benton County Livestock Judging Team
- State Fair Exhibitors: Static / Communications / Livestock
- Honorary Member Recognition
- Leader of the Year

YOU STILL HAVE TIME TO SUBMIT YOUR RECORD BOOKS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR AN AWARD!

- Due by: October 8, 4:30PM to the Extension Office
4-H COMMITTEE

The 4-H Committee is seeking two (2) qualified applicants to fill the following Superintendent positions on Benton County's 4-H Committee:
- Beef Superintendent
- Sheep/Meat Goat Superintendent

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICANTS

The 4-H Committee extends a wealth of gratitude to the following Superintendents for their commitment to the county's youth and 4-H Program and for fulfilling their two (2), three (3) year terms:
- Dawn Edler, Beef Superintendent (2016 - 2021) and Committee Chair
- Molly Gardemann, Sheep/Meat Goat Superintendent (2016 - 2021)

4-H COMMITTEE MISSION

- **Purpose:** The goal of the 4-H Committee is to act in partnership with 4-H youth in all Benton County 4-H program activities.
- **Role:** The 4-H Committee will work to meet the developmental and educational needs of youth in the 4-H program. The Committee will ensure the integrity and effectiveness of the 4-H program.

Full details of the 4-H Committee Member's role are included in the 4-H Committee Application.

4-H COMMITTEE APPLICATION

- **Dates Open:** October 1 - December 1, 2021
- **Application Link:** [https://forms.gle/JWicmyZewdx8Xf8d9](https://forms.gle/JWicmyZewdx8Xf8d9)
- **Paper Application Due to Location:** Benton County Extension and Outreach office
- **Application Process:**
  - **Electronic Application:** Click on the Application Link above to complete and submit the 4-H Committee Application.
  - **Paper Application:** Paper Applications are available for pick up at the Benton County Extension Office located at 501 1st Avenue, Vinton or you can contact Sheila at 319.472.4739 or shias@iastate.edu to have an application mailed to you.

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OPEN SKATE EVENT

**DATE:** Sunday, November 21
**TIME:** 2 - 4 PM
**LOCATION:** Vinton Skate & Activity Center
**COST:** FREE!
**REGISTRATION:** 4HOnline at [https://v2.4honline.com/](https://v2.4honline.com/)

Under the Member List tab, scroll to the bottom and look for the logo shown here (to the left).

Click REGISTER!
IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

YOU STILL HAVE TIME!

2021 COUNTY YOUTH COUNCIL APPLICATION

- **Application Due Date:** October 8 by 4:30PM
- **Application Link:** [https://forms.gle/yrmqafDMS7kndHM57](https://forms.gle/yrmqafDMS7kndHM57)
- **Paper Application Due to Location:** Benton County Extension and Outreach office

4-H RECORDS BOOKS

- **Date:** October 8
- **Time:** 4:30 PM
- **Location:** Benton County Extension and Outreach office

MISS AGRICULTURE USA

Article and Photo by: CJ Ellers, Vinton Newspapers

Kelsey Brown of Dysart, Iowa was recently named the 2022 Iowa Teen Miss Agriculture USA Queen.

Miss Agriculture USA is a national nonprofit organization that focuses on positively promoting agriculture featuring queens of all ages that promote, celebrate and educate about all the diverse aspects of agriculture.

Kelsey is the 14 year old daughter of Tim and Patricia Brown of Dysart, Iowa. She attends Union High School.

Her agricultural interests include sheep and meat chickens. She is also a 5 year member of 4H and starting FFA.

Kelsey will be competing at the National Miss Agriculture USA Competition to be held in Ohio in June 2022.

UPCOMING COUNTY YOUTH COUNCIL MEETING

County Youth Council Members - we will be meeting in October on Sunday the 24th at 6PM.

Location: TBD.

An agenda will be emailed out soon.

Please plan to attend!
Adilynn Becker of Belle Plaine was recently awarded the title of 2021 Benton County, IA Little Miss United States Agriculture.

Adilynn Becker is the 8-year-old daughter of Lee and Monica Becker (new co-leaders of Iowa Ever Readies 4-H Club with Diana Ward).

The 2021 Eastern Iowa Corridor Regional Miss United States Agriculture Pageant was held in Williamsburg, Iowa, on September 12th starting at 1 pm. The contestants competed in four different categories. These categories included Interview, On-Stage Introduction, Evening Wear, & On-Stage Question. Twenty-one girls from five different counties traveled to compete for their own county title and a ticket to the Midwest Regional Miss United States Agriculture Pageant and the State of Iowa Pageant being held in Maryville, Missouri, on December 3rd–5th. The queens crowned at the pageant in Williamsburg will go on to compete for a state title with the opportunity to continue on to the National Pageant that will be held in Orlando, Florida, in June, 2022.

State Director Holly Hatfield says "The idea behind the Miss United States Agriculture Pageant Program is to celebrate the agriculture industry and our local farmers all while promoting self-esteem, building strong leaders, and awarding scholarships to encourage a continuing pursuit of education as well as incorporating our motto: "Teach. Inspire. Advocate."

The Eastern Iowa Corridor Regional Miss United States Agriculture Pageant was organized by the 2021 National Miss United States Agriculture Advocacy Ambassador, Katelyn Folkmann (former Benton County 4-H Member) of Newhall, Iowa, and 2021 National Ms. United States Agriculture, Mollie Upton of Oxford, Iowa. One of the directors, Katelyn Folkmann says, "The goal of hosting this pageant was to get more girls involved in the program and to bring together women who have a passion for agriculture. Even though we come from a variety of different backgrounds, we all have a love for agriculture and want to support the American Farmer."

Adilynn recently participated in the Benton County Safety Day Camp held at the Benton County Fairgrounds. She is shown here with members of Belle Plaine's FFA at one of the Grain Safety demonstrations.

**MISS UNITED STATES AGRICULTURE IN BENTON COUNTY**

Benton County has several 4-H Members who have gained a Miss United States Agriculture title recently:

- Bailey Breja, Future Little Miss
- Alexandra Zahradnik, Little Miss
- Samantha Zahradnik, Teen Miss
- Harlyn Heitshusen, Miss

We hope to highlight their successes too in future newsletters.
Youth can sign up to participate by filling out the form on the Camera Corps webpage. Each month, a photography theme is provided with a different focus. This month’s theme/challenge is Shadows and youth can submit photos via the Jotform on the Camera Corps webpage. Questions? Contact Clark Colby at cacolby3@iastate.edu.

In the 2020–21 Program Year, our Benton County 4-H Members represented our county in the Camera Corps amazingly well! They also had photos displayed at the 2021 Iowa State Fair.

- Anna Becker (North Eden Willing Workers) won People’s Choice 9 times
- Nora Grovert (North Eden Willing Workers) won People’s Choice 5 times and Juror’s Choice 1 time
- Jenna Grovert (North Eden Willing Workers) won People’s Choice 5 times and Juror’s Choice 4 times

Other club members include: Caleigh Lewis (Polk 101), Laney Albertsen and Lydia Albertsen (Bruce Boosters). Nice job and keep up the great work!

**YARD AND GARDEN**

**Planting Spring-Blooming Bulbs**

**Tips on buying and planting bulbs for a bright spring**

September 27, 2021, 8:56 am | Aaron J. Stel

AMES, Iowa — Autumn is a time of beautiful colors. Trees turn vibrant yellows and red and pumpkins ripen to deep orange. Fall is also a time to think about the colors of spring. The many beautiful spring-blooming bulbs like tulips, daffodil and squill, all grow and flower in spring but must be planted in the fall. A little planning, planting and care in the fall will reap colorful rewards in the spring, according to horticulture specialists with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

For the full article click [HERE](https://www.extension.iastate.edu/news/yard-and-garden-planting-spring-blooming-bulbs)

**WE ARE IOWA’S 99 COUNTY CAMPUS**

How do you describe Iowa State University Extension and Outreach? We are educators, researchers, volunteers, and partners on campus in Ames and throughout the state. We serve Iowans online and in person with education and information based in research. We are Iowa’s 99 county campus and we are here for you, your family, community, home, farm, business, and our future leaders.

Learn more at [extension.iastate.edu](http://extension.iastate.edu).
Watch Video: [https://youtu.be/JryNcG3Tlol](https://youtu.be/JryNcG3Tlol)
Did you know 4-H reaches almost six million young people! 4-H programs are delivered by 3,500 professionals and 500,000 Volunteers! You make a difference! Help promote 4-H and National 4-H week in your clubs and communities! Below are ideas that your program, club, and/or 4-H youth can take part in to help promote 4-H and celebrate National 4-H week this month.

As Individuals encourage 4-H’ers to:
- Wear a 4-H shirt to school a certain day the week of Oct. 3-9th
- Share what 4-H is all about with a friend
- Invite a friend to a 4-H meeting

As a Club:
- Host a fun 4-H recruitment event in October, involve the youth in your club to help promote 4-H and the event and invite friends
- Chalk drawings in approved areas like businesses or driveways promoting 4-H Engage local businesses in a window decorating contest
- Encourage 4-H’ers to get creative and work with local businesses to decorate their windows
- Create a service-learning challenge
- Work with your county Extension office to connect with the schools to share 4-H information, how to join, etc. and involve youth in sharing their 4-H story

During this time of year, that includes 4-H recruitment and welcoming new members to your club or program, it’s also a great time to re-visit the Project Area webpage on the Iowa 4-H website where you can help connect youth to project areas of interest and the Project Area Guides! This is also a great time of year to include activities in club meetings that encourage new and returning 4-H’ers to get to know each other. On the Extension store in the Vibrant Club series make sure to check out the welcome activity “You Fit Right In” which introduces youth to a fun “get to know you” activity and helps create a sense of belonging.
- From the Project Areas webpage 4-H Projects | 4-H Youth Development (iastate.edu), volunteers, youth, and families can select a project area to learn more and access the Project Area Guides.
- You can find the “You Fit Right In” welcome activity from the Vibrant Club series on the extension store https://store.extension.iastate.edu/ by clicking on the 4-H tab on the top menu bar and then choose “Volunteer Resources”, then choose Vibrant Club Series on the left. You can also find additional activities in the Vibrant Club series. Each of the resources follows the “Building A Vibrant Club” outline and focuses on one of the four areas of a 4-H club meeting. Volunteers and youth are encouraged to utilize the resources and incorporate into club meetings!

Thank you for volunteering with Iowa 4-H! Please reach out to your local 4-H staff for assistance and support as you prepare to celebrate National 4-H Week and get started in the new 4-H year!
STATEWIDE JUDGES TRAINING

Iowa 4-H will be hosting a free statewide virtual judges training, "Evaluate, Educate, and Encourage — Your Role as an Iowa 4-H Static Judge," on November 4, 7pm-8:30pm. Please encourage ALL new judges to attend this training. Returning judges will also benefit from this training as a refresher. The training content applies to all static judges and all categories. Judges can find the registration form on the Information for Judges webpage. Questions? Contact Shelly Ramus at sramus@iastate.edu.

Evaluate, Educate, and Encourage -- Your Role as an Iowa 4-H Static Judge
For all Iowa 4-H judges, new and returning.
November 4, 2021, 7-8:30 p.m. Register Today! https://form.jotform.com/212585485186163

DEADLINES & IMPORTANT DATES

- October 8: Record Books & Club Books (Secretary, Treasurer, etc) Deadline
- October 8: Benton County 4-H County Youth Council Application Deadline
- October 13: County Youth Council Interviews Benton County Extension Office
- October 15: 2021–22 New County Youth Council Members ANNOUNCED!
- October 24: County Youth Council Meeting, 6PM, TBD
- November 1: Club Calendars due to Extension Office
- November 14: Benton County 4-H Awards and Recognitions Celebration, TBD
- November 21: Countywide 4-H Skate Event, 2-4PM, Vinton Skate Center
- December TBD: Market Beef Weigh-In, Benton County Fairgrounds
- February TBD: Benton County 4-H Bowling Tournament

NATIONAL 4-H ANNOUNCEMENTS

National 4-H Summits: In Person
- February 10-13: Health Living Summit Registration Opens Soon!
- March 10-13: 2022 Agri-Science Summit Registration Opens Soon!
- June 5-July 16: 2022 Citizenship Washington Focus (week-long programs)
- July 18-22: 2022 Leadership Washington Focus
- September 15-18: 2022 STEM Summit

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