

4-H GROWS HERE



Black Hawk County 4-H Family News for February 2020

Good Stuff!

The year is getting off to a great start in Black Hawk County! Here are some fun and exciting highlights from January.

On Saturday, January 11th, the Black Hawk County 4-H FTC team competed in their League Championship in Denver, Iowa. Their efforts in the competition that day coupled with a successful season to date landed them a spot on the winning alliance. The team received recognition for their Robot design with a second place Innovation award and earned an invitation to the super regional competition held February 1st in Waverly.

At the super regional, they finished the qualifier matches with a #3 ranking and participated in the semi-final round for the robotic competition.



A big thanks to Farm Credit Services of America in Cedar Falls! They made a generous monetary gift in support of the new 4-H Fair building, which was constructed last year on the Cattle Congress Grounds!

Important Reminder! All 4-H club members must be enrolled in 4-H Online! Not only does this serve to ensure all medical/contact information is up to date, it is critical for insurance purposes as 4-H'ers attend meetings and activities. Contact Judy (jmuniz@iastate.edu) for assistance.

Important Dates

- Feb. 8th:** 4-H Snowshoeing/Animal Tracking at Hartman Reserve, 11am-Noon
- Feb. 20th:** [YQCA Training](#) in Buchanan County
- Mar. 21st:** Dog Project Workshop, 10am-12pm
- Mar. 24th:** Cedar Valley Family STEM Fair at the UNI-Dome, 4pm-7:30pm
- Mar. 29th:** Omelet Breakfast, 8am-1pm



Let's Talk About February!

It is time to take a peek at some announcements, events and reminders for February and the months to come!

Make Some Tracks! 4-H Snowshoeing and Animal Tracking takes place at Hartman Reserve on Saturday, February 8th from 11:00am-Noon.

4-H'ers can join the fun for just \$5. For more information and registration, please [click here](#).



Woof! 4-H'ers that would like to learn more about connecting with their canines, get ideas for dog-related fair projects, or participate in the dog show with their 4-legged best friend are in luck! The Black Hawk County 4-H Dog Project is here. The [4-H Dog Project Events for 2020](#) page has all the details. There is a fun workshop coming up on March 21st, so stay tuned!

Fair on the Radar: YQCA Training. YQCA (Youth for the Quality Care of Animals) certification is required for all market and dairy animal exhibitors wishing to show at the Black Hawk County Fair or the Iowa State Fair. 4-H'ers may choose to be trained for certification in person or online. Buchanan county is offering three face-to-face trainings or youth may access the training at www.yqca.com. Please [click here](#) for details on YQCA requirements, training dates, registration and fees. The deadline for certification is June 1st.

Eggs-citing News! The 26th Annual Black Hawk County 4-H Omelet Breakfast Fundraiser is taking place on March 29th. This is Black Hawk County 4-H's largest fundraiser and it is all hands on deck! How can clubs contribute to the success of this event? Three simple ways-

- **Sell tickets!** If each Clover Kid and 4-H'er sells two, that is hundreds of guests...and dollars! Leaders receive tickets to distribute to their clubs and can obtain more from the Extension office.
- **Create a silent auction basket!** Each club can put together a fun, themed basket for guests to bid on during the breakfast. These are a big hit and a great way to raise funds.
- **Sign up** for dining room and/or omelet cooking shifts! Each and every Clover Kid and 4-H'er can participate. Clovers and youth under 7th grade are not able to cook, but they have an important role in making sure their guests have a terrific breakfast experience by serving in the dining room, helping in the kitchen, and clearing tables.



CEDAR VALLEY FAMILY STEM FESTIVAL
Brought to you by the Northeast Region of the Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council

Tuesday, March 24, 2020
4:00 PM to 7:30 PM
UNI-Dome, Cedar Falls

Bring your whole family to the Cedar Valley Family STEM Festival! Experience **FREE** and **FUN** activities at this hands-on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics event being held at the University of Northern Iowa-Dome in Cedar Falls. Free parking West of the UNI-Dome

INSPIRING

HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES

GREATNESS STEMS FROM IOWANS

ENGAGING

JOIN YOUR FRIENDS

Visit the [Omelet Breakfast page](#) for more information and to sign up to help!

Save The Date!



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Count Your Clovers! The State Council invites 4-H'ers from across the state to take part in the 4-H'ers for 4-H Campaign, "Count Your Clovers," and help provide support for 4-H members across the state. Funds raised from this campaign provide financial aid support for young people, helps to keep costs low for the State 4-H Conference and supports the State Council's efforts. Interested? Let your club leaders know!

How About This for A College Visit? Registration is open for the 2020 Design Camp, *Design Dimensions*, hosted by Iowa 4-H and College of Design at Iowa State University from June 21st to 26th. It is a six-day, five-night summer camp with day camp option for high school students entering 9th through 12th grades and 2019 high school graduates. *Design Dimensions* focuses on 2D, 3D and 4D thinking across disciplines while providing hands-on experience with the latest design technology. Click [here](#) for more information on the camp, fees and registration.

Iowa 4-H Needs Volunteers! Iowa 4-H is seeking volunteers for two events in March. They need state 4-H project area award reviewers and interviewers for State Recognition day on March 28th. See this [link](#) for more information. There is also a need for volunteers at the State Science and Technology Fair of Iowa on March 26th and 27th in Ames. Sign up and more information [here](#).

Get In Touch!

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Leader Spotlight

Name: Nancy Schmitz

Club/Location: Mt. Vernon Pals/Waterloo

Years of Service: 49

How long have you been involved with 4-H?

I was a 4-H member in Black Hawk County and have been a club leader with the Mt. Vernon Pals for over 45 years. I currently co-lead with my son, Bart. Our club was organized in 1922.

Have other members of your family participated in 4-H? If so, whom?

My husband, Dan, received "honorary" 4-H status in 2013. Our three children were active 4-H members. I currently have eight grandchildren in our club, and one grandson who is a Clover Kid in Dallas County.

What motivates you to be a leader?

Working with young people keeps me young. They are always enthusiastic, and ready to be challenged. To see young 4-Hers grow in their projects and speaking ability is an amazing thing.

Name some of your favorite club activities.

Why are these favorites?

Our monthly club meetings are always eventful. The community service projects we do, such as May Baskets for a senior living center, making blankets for "project Linus", or baking cookies for the Red Cross is a tribute to the potential of young people. My favorite activity is the county Omelet Breakfast. My husband and I enjoyed chairing it for the first 16 years. Any time our club members and families work together is great. This truly showcases what 4-H is all about!!

Please share a memorable story from your experience as a leader/mentor!

I don't have one specific memory, but getting to know 4-H members and families is very rewarding. I have kept in touch with many 4-H 'friends' over the years.



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