The Important Stuff!
Here comes summer! As May came to a close, so did the school year. Although it looked very different from other years, there is still nothing quite like the freedom of summer and all it holds. Our new normal is taking some getting used to, even as guidelines change to start the re-opening of Iowa. Things are changing with Extension programming as well. At the forefront of all decision-making is keeping Black Hawk County youth, families, volunteers, staff and those we serve safe and healthy. At this time, the Black Hawk County Extension office is still closed to the public, with meetings and outreach activities being conducted virtually. However, Iowa 4-H is working on guidelines for leaders who would like to consider resuming face to face meetings. As updates are available, we will share them. Virtual meetings are still encouraged and supported! Please take care and stay well!

The Good Stuff!
Congratulations to the Ellies! Ellie Brown and Ellie Magee are Black Hawk County 4-H’s 2020 Iowa 4-H Foundation Scholarship recipients. Ellie Brown is a member of the Lincoln Friendly Links and Ellie Magee is in the Lester Livewires club. Both women are part of the Black Hawk County 4-H County Council and are beginning their college journeys at Iowa State University. Congratulations and best wishes to these two 4-H’ers!

Important Dates
June 10th: Beginner Livestock Judging Camp registration deadline
June 11th: Broiler Chick pick up, 12:30pm
June 15th: On Their Own and Ok registration deadline
June 22nd: 4-H Bingo Zoom meeting, 7pm
June 28th: Animal Cy-ience Academy reg. deadline
June 30th: SESS Postal Match registration deadline
July 1st: State Fair Livestock entries due
July 1st: Rabbit entries due in 4HOnline
July 1st: Youth Crop Scouting registration deadline
July 1st: 4-H King/Queen applications due
July 3rd: Special proj/presentations due in Fair Entry

Mondays in June: Horse & Pony meetings, 6pm
Tuesdays in June: Dog Obedience meetings, 6pm
Let’s Talk About June!
It promises to be a dynamic month! With guidelines from the government, Iowa State University, and health agencies changing quickly, there will be news about 4-H programming coming to you as decisions are made that align with the latest in safety protocols. Please keep your eye on the Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Black Hawk County website and Facebook page, along with your email, for information on events and deadlines. As you know, the Black Hawk County 4-H and FFA Fair is around the corner! It is time for all of those projects to come into focus! Are your 4-H’ers looking for things to do now that school is out? Virtual 4-H summer programming has just kicked off. Just because things have to be done a little differently does not mean they cannot be FUN, engaging and exciting! It is time to start planning for a super summer!

Here are the announcements, events and timely reminders for June and the months to come!

Congratulations 2020 Seniors!
Black Hawk County 4-H wishes the best to the sixteen fabulous 4-H’ers who graduated from high school in 2020! Please read more about these seniors and see the video tribute here!

The Voices We Need to Hear Right Now. Jennifer Sirangelo, President & CEO - National 4-H Council, shares her reflections on the recent tragedy in Minnesota and the role 4-H has to play in empowering youth in America. She offers a video highlighting the diverse voices of 4-H youth and Cooperative Extension 4-H leaders speaking about what equity means to them. Please watch it here.

The Face Mask Challenge Continues! Black Hawk County 4-H continues to help make 10,000 masks for the Iowa Veterans Home in Marshalltown, Iowa. 4-H’ers can put their hands to larger service and protect these veterans. There are two ways to help, donate fabric or sew masks at home. (Please note, the fabric must be freshly WASHED before it is donated.) Donations can be placed in the large plastic tote housed on the back deck of the Black Hawk County Extension office. Large quantities of donated fabric can be put in a clean trash bag and placed next to the tote. If you would like to make masks, there will also be a smaller tote with pre-cut fabric. You can take the amount that you need and put finished masks in a plastic or zipper topped bag in the designated tote. Extension staff will monitor the totes and materials will be collected daily. If you are unable to travel to the office to donate fabric or masks, or have any questions, please contact Diane Wolfe at 319.239.2745. Our Extension staff can arrange for a contact-free pick up of the items from your home. Let’s work together to reach the goal for our veterans!

We have answers to your questions!
Visit the Black Hawk County 4-H webpage, find us on Facebook, or call 234.6811!
Black Hawk County Extension Presents... Black Hawk County Extension is fortunate to have talented volunteers and staff that have created some great videos! Check out Homemade Pizza with Mike!, a 3-part video series by Mike Pipho, FTC Club Leader. Viewers learn how to make pizza crust and sauce from scratch, get tips on toppings, assembling and baking the pizza. Buon appetito!

How about a fun project for your canine BFF? Alex Oldenburg, Dog Project Leader, demonstrates how to make a snuffle mat here!

Any green thumbs in the house? Take a look at a series of YouTube videos on gardening called Gardening with Miss Grace created by Grace Traini, one of our FoodCorps members. Is anyone interested in learning the 4-H pledge in another language? Watch Kei-Che, Eleni and Lanae as they teach everyone how to say it in American Sign Language (ASL)!

Welcome Kayla! Please help us welcome Black Hawk County’s newest Fair Assistant, Kayla Carolan! Kayla is from Cedar Falls and has recently finished her second year at Iowa State University. She is a familiar face at our fair since she has been an active 4-H & FFA member and volunteer. We know she will hit the ground running and enjoy a busy, exciting and educational summer with Black Hawk County 4-H!

2020 Summer Programming Announcement! Black Hawk County 4-H is pleased to announce the 2020 Virtual Summer STEM Library Program! The free lessons will be held virtually through partnerships with the Waterloo Public Library, Hudson Public Library, and Hawkins Memorial Library in June, July and August. There is even a Summer STEM scavenger hunt! For the library schedules and details about participating, please click here!

Broiler Chick Reminder! All 4-H families that ordered broiler chicks for the 4-H Broiler Chick Project will need to pick up their chicks on June 11th at the Extension office. Call 234.6811 if you have any questions.

Looking for more information? Visit the Black Hawk County 4-H webpage, find us on Facebook, or call 234.6811!
Ready to Play Bingo? It is virtual, designed especially for 4-H’ers, and really fun! 4-H Bingo gives 4-H’ers two weeks to complete activities on their cards. The competition started on Monday, June 8th and will end on Monday, June 22nd with attendance in a special 4-H Zoom session at 7pm. Click here to download the Bingo card and find out more!

Livestock Judging Camp...No Travel Required! Beginner Livestock Judging Camp is designed for 4-H and FFA members, ages 8-13 years old, interested in building their knowledge of evaluating market and breeding animals, including beef, swine, sheep and goats. The basics of evaluation, note-taking skills, judging mechanics, answering questions, oral reasons and more will be covered. Participants must register by June 10th. Cost is $30. Register here.

Home Alone Learning Opportunity. Iowa 4-H is offering free, hands-on learning experiences to support parents as they help their children gain confidence in staying home alone. For 5 weeks, June 18th through July 23rd, registered youth and adults will receive an email with directions for hands-on family learning using materials typically found at home. This will follow the “On Their Own and Ok” curriculum which is tailored for parents and children in 4-6th grade. Registration is due by June 15th. For more information and to register, click here.

Stay Tuned for ‘Probing into Projects!’ Black Hawk County 4-H will offer a 5-week virtual series for 4-H’ers to take a deeper dive into 5 different project areas: Poultry, Dog, Food & Nutrition, Visual Arts, and Ag & Natural Resources. Youth will receive emails with activity ideas, video links, journaling prompts and more! Watch your email and the Black Hawk County Extension Facebook page for updates!

Design Dimensions Camp Goes Virtual. The College of Design at Iowa State University is offering an immersive, online experience for high schoolers from June 21st to June 26th. It focuses on 2D, 3D and 4D thinking across disciplines while providing hands-on experience with the latest design technology. Check out all the details here!

More to Explore! The 2020 Animal Science Roundup is canceled, but never fear! The Animal Cy-ience Academy is being offered virtually on July 1, 2020. This program introduces high school students to the many disciplines and career opportunities available in the field of animal science. Participants will be able to virtually experience dissections, farm tours, live demonstrations and cook their own virtual lunch with professors. The academy is designed for high school-aged youth and is open to all. Cost is $25. Register by June 28th. Click here for more information and to register.

Babysitting 101! Story County Extension and Outreach is hosting a virtual Babysitting Basics Program for students 5th-12th grade. To receive a program certificate, participants view the self-learning materials and videos, participate in one group learning session through Webex, and complete a babysitting quiz. Learn more here!

Answers at Your Fingertips! Visit the Black Hawk County 4-H webpage, find us on Facebook, or call 234.6811!
Count Those Clovers! The 4-H’ers for 4-H Campaign, “Count Your Clovers,” is still in progress. Clubs should complete the Count Your Clovers pledge form and return the bottom portion to the Extension office. The deadline for forms has been extended to June 30th.

2020 Crop Scouting Competition for Youth.
Middle school and high school students (those completing grades 7-12) from Iowa are invited by the Iowa State University Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program to compete and showcase crop scouting abilities in corn and soybean. This year’s competition will be held in a virtual format on July 30th. Navigate here for more information and to register by the July 1st deadline.

What is FIRST LEGO League All About? Learn about the program, and coaching and mentoring FIRST LEGO Leagues (FLL) through an online workshop! No engineering experience required. You will gain an overview of FLL and FLL Jr. (now known as FIRST LEGO League Challenge and FIRST LEGO League Explore). Open to anyone interested in mentoring youth. We are happy to welcome new coaches and mentors! More information and videos here!

Cancellation/Postponement Announcements for Statewide Iowa 4-H Programs. Please navigate to the Iowa 4-H Youth Development home page for all statewide COVID-19 scheduling impacts to 4-H programming and events. Please refer to the Black Hawk County 4-H webpage and Facebook page for Black Hawk County 4-H updates, or call 234.6811 if you have questions.

Black Hawk County 4-H & FFA Fair Update.
COVID-19 has changed many things over the last few months. This is also true of the Black Hawk County 4-H & FFA Fair. Although it will not look the same, youth will have a positive experience and continue to learn by doing! The fair will be closed to the public, but static judging and livestock shows will take place. For more details see this update.

Fair on the Radar!
Step One is done! Let’s look at what comes next.

July 1st is the deadline for State Fair Livestock to be entered in State Fair Entry. Reminder, it is also time for rabbits to be entered into 4HOnline!

Answers at Your Fingertips!
Visit the Black Hawk County 4-H webpage, find us on Facebook, or call 234.6811!
July 3rd is the deadline for entering special projects and presentations in Fair Entry. 

July 12th is the deadline for all Livestock and Static (non-livestock) projects to be entered in classes in Fair Entry. For questions or issues with Fair Entry, please contact Judy at jmuniz@iastate.edu. 

Looking for a 2020 Fair Book? They are available online! Please note that schedule changes due to COVID-19 are not reflected in the Fair Book.

Call for 4-H Royalty! Applications for Black Hawk County 4-H & FFA Fair King and Queen are due by July 1st! Applicants must be 16 to 21 years old. See the rules and find an application here.

Scholarships Available! The Danforth “I Dare You” Award and Lions Club Scholarship application deadline is July 10th. Applicants must be in grades 10-12 and Record Books must have been submitted for an applicant to receive the award or scholarship. The 2020 Sheep and 2020 Pork Scholarships are open to 9th through 12th graders. The application deadline is July 12th. Click here for details and application links for these scholarships.

Financial Assistance for 4-H’ers. 

Though the 4-H’ers for 4-H Program, funds are available to provide financial support for 4-H’ers and families in times of need. These funds should be used to help 4-H’ers complete 4-H projects or exhibits. More information is available here.

Looking for Summer Activities? 

The Black Hawk County Extension and Outreach Facebook page continues to have many hands-on activity ideas, recipes, instructional videos, at home learning resources and more from 4-H, Iowa State University, county Extension offices, and community partners.

Speaking of recipes, the National 4-H website has a digital cookbook called Fresh Chefs, which features simple and delicious meals from the 4-H family. Don’t miss the inspiring message from Carla Hall, a fantastic chef, 4-H Alumna and 4-H Healthy Habits Program Ambassador.

Are there some green thumbs in your household? Gardening to Give is a great opportunity for 4-H families and clubs to work together and do what 4-H’ers do best, give back to their community. Details here!

It is time to get outside (and maybe get some inspiration for Fair projects)! Did you know that Black Hawk County parks, Hartman Reserve trails and the Cedar Valley Arboretum and Botanic Gardens are open to the public? How about a driving or walking tour of public art in Cedar Falls? For art and nature in one spot, visit the North Cedar Natural Resource Project in North Cedar Falls. It not only has 16 acres of land with 5 distinct ecosystems to explore, it also has a 6-ton art installation called, Nest, which is located adjacent to the area. Check the Facebook page or website for locations you plan to visit for any COVID-19 guidelines.

Searching for Something? 

Visit the Black Hawk County 4-H webpage, find us on Facebook, or call 234.6811!
Looking for a way to give back to the community this summer? Iowa 4-H is asking high school aged 4-H’ers and adult family members to consider volunteering at local food distribution sites. Healthy, low risk individuals not living with anyone who is ill or high risk are needed to help pack boxes for pickup and neighborhood food deliveries. Information about being a COVID-19 volunteer and other volunteer opportunities can be found at the Volunteer Center of the Cedar Valley.

Leader Spotlight
Name: Ben Olsen
Club/Location: Lincoln Friendly Links/Hudson
Years of Service: 4

How long have you been involved with 4-H?
I joined 4-H when I was in fourth grade. At that time, I actually was living in Jefferson County, New York, where my dad was the county Extension Director. I was very involved in raising and showing sheep, building rockets, and woodworking projects. Later, we moved to Iowa and I was involved in 4-H in Hardin County where I continued to show sheep and rockets. Now my children are all in 4-H and I’ve been a leader for the Lincoln Friendly Links for three years. I’ve also been a non-livestock fair judge for about 15 years. All in all, I’ve been involved with 4-H in some capacity for about 35 years.

Have other members of your family participated in 4-H? If so, whom?
4-H has been a part of my family for a very long time. My grandpa and dad were members of 4-H, along with my sisters. In fact, my children are the fourth generation of my family to show 4-H livestock – in Minnesota, New York, and Iowa.

What motivates you to be a leader?
I initially became a leader so that I could be more heavily involved in 4-H because I have so many good memories from the program and things I learned while in 4-H. I also wanted to be closely involved with my own children as they created their own 4-H memories. Overall, I really enjoy working with the youth and exposing them to all the great things 4-H has to offer.

Name some of your favorite club activities. Why are these favorites?
I enjoy many of the club activities that we do, often related to an interest of a club member. Our club does a lot of craft and cooking activities and there’s always a lot of laughter that comes out of those times. I really enjoy our service projects like working at the Cedar Bend Humane Society or cleaning up a park in Hudson, but my favorites is when our club annually decorates cookies and works as Santa’s helpers for the Santa Comes to Town event in Hudson. I also have really enjoyed some of our special activities, like going skiing as a club near Boone.

Please share a memorable story from your experience as a leader/mentor!
A couple of years ago, our club was chosen to take part in a Clover Kids STEM challenge at the State Fair. Our team got to be up on the main stage in the 4-H building and worked to program Dash robots to do certain challenges, including moving to an area and slinging a ping pong ball into a target. Sometimes, the misses were just as fun as the hits because the ping pong ball could really go flying! Being up on the stage in front of an audience was really memorable for all.

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