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Black Hawk County 4-H Family News for May 2020

The Important Stuff!

April was a month of discovery, learning, and maybe a little frustration (more bandwidth please!) as we found alternative ways to work and connect with family, friends and 4-H. Staying safe and staying home is still our guidance for May. The Black Hawk County Extension office will remain closed to the public, and all 4-H events and in-person meetings will remain canceled or postponed, through at least the end of the month. Meetings and outreach activities will be conducted virtually if possible. Please continue to keep our 4-H youth safe and help your 4-H'ers find ways to stay in contact with their club without compromising social distancing protocols. One of our youth needs in the 4-H Equation is a *sense of belonging*. During these times of isolation, it is important for 4-H'ers to feel included and part of a community. Don't we all need that? We have some ideas and suggestions for your family later in this newsletter. Take care and stay well!

The Good Stuff!

Congratulations to Evelyn Schmitz of the Mt. Vernon Pals! She was featured on American Ninja Warrior Jr. on the Universal Kids Network on April 3rd. Nice job, Evelyn!



In early April, Iowa 4-H challenged 4-H'ers and volunteers statewide to make 10,000 masks to donate to health care workers and hospitals. In just nine days, the goal was met! To date, over 19,000 masks have been collected. Heather Henning, 4-H Program Specialist, and Diane Wolfe, CYC, spoke with KXEL radio about the success of the project. You can listen to the interview [here!](#)



Important Dates

- May 8th:** Pen Pal Program sign up deadline
 - May 11th:** [Broiler Chick](#) order deadline
 - May 12th:** Dog Obedience meeting (Wk. 1), 6pm*
 - May 18th:** Youth in Action Award deadline
 - May 19th:** Dog Obedience meeting (Wk. 2), 6pm*
 - May 25th:** Memorial Day
 - May 26th:** Dog Obedience meeting (Wk. 3), 6pm*
 - June 1st:** Horse and Pony meeting (Wk. 1), 6pm
 - June 1st:** YQCA Certification deadline
 - June 1st:** [Livestock Fair Entry deadline](#)
(includes dogs and pets. Rabbits are July 1st.)
- *virtual



Let's Talk About May!

We may need to keep our social distance and stay close to home, but there are still many ways to be engaged with each other and the community, not to mention staying busy! Each day, ideas, videos and resources are shared on the Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Black Hawk County [website](#) and [Facebook page](#). Along with your email, these are also the places to watch for changes to deadlines and scheduling updates for the Black Hawk County 4-H and FFA Fair and other events. Speaking of the fair, it is a perfect time for 4-H'ers to be working on their projects. Inspiration can be found just a click away on the Black Hawk County Extension [Facebook page](#), [Iowa 4-H Facebook page](#), or [Project Hot Sheets](#). Don't forget, in mid-May, orders for Broiler Chicks are due and Dog Obedience meetings kick off!

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

In Case You Missed It...Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Black Hawk County appreciates the good that our volunteers do in helping us serve youth, families, and citizens in Black Hawk County! Please enjoy the video that we released in late April showcasing the contributions of our volunteers! Follow this [YouTube link](#), or navigate to our [Facebook page](#) or [website](#).



Another Face Mask Challenge! Black Hawk County 4-H has been asked to help make 10,000 masks for the Iowa Veterans Home in Marshalltown, Iowa.

The people that will benefit from these masks are not only the front-



Iowa Veterans Home

Integrity | Service | Honor

line health care workers, but the veterans receiving benefits at the facility. These individuals have served and protected our country. Now, 4-H'ers can put their hands to larger service and protect them. There are two ways to help...

- Donate fabric. If a family or volunteer has extra fabric and/or sheets (new or used), this is the chance to put them to good use! Our great partners at The Makers Space are able to utilize their equipment to pre-cut large amounts of fabric for mask construction. Please note, the fabric must be freshly WASHED before it is donated.
- Pick up the pre-cut material and sew masks at home. Or, if you already have the fabric and pattern, fire up your sewing machine!

How will this work? You can donate your washed fabric by placing it in the large plastic tote that will be 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. If you have finished masks, put them in a plastic or zipper topped bag and place them in the third tote that will also be on the deck. All totes will be monitored and materials will be collected by Extension staff 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 of 10,000 masks 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!



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Who Is Hungry for Pizza? Black Hawk County 4-H presents *Homemade Pizza with Mike!* In this 3-part video series, viewers learn how to make pizza crust and sauce from scratch, then get tips on toppings, assembling and baking the pizza. Mike Piphon, who is the Black Hawk County 4-H FTC Club Leader, Poultry Superintendent, an Extension Council Member, AND an avid pizza maker, shares his expertise on creating delicious pizza at home. Check it out [here!](#)



Speaking of Food... Do you have 4-H'ers that are thinking about doing the NEW \$10 Meal Challenge for Fair? Make sure they know about the [\\$10 Meal Challenge Poster Rules](#). Since the poster project can be completed by an individual or small group, why not see if your club has members that would like to work together? They can meet virtually to plan how each youth will contribute to the project and how to present it, whether in person or virtually during Fair. What a great way to gain a sense of belonging and connection!



Calling All Dog People! The [Black Hawk County 4-H Dog Project](#) has gone virtual. The first video for the Dog Project has been released! It is by Alex Oldenburg, the Black Hawk County Dog Project Leader, and she demonstrates how to make a snuffle mat. Take a look at it [here!](#)



4-H'ers that would like to gain knowledge about connecting with their canines, get ideas for dog-related fair projects, or participate in the dog show with their 4-legged best friend should plan to tune into additional videos and tutorials that are in the works. Check out this [page](#) to find out what is new! Dog Obedience meetings begin Tuesday, May 12th and will continue on a weekly basis into July. All meetings in May will be conducted virtually! Click [here](#) for information regarding youth sign up and requirements for Dog Obedience meetings.

It is Broiler Chick Time!

All 4-H families that would like to order broiler chicks for the [4-H Broiler Chick Project](#) must do so by May 11th. The chicks will arrive on June 2nd. Many 4-H'ers choose to donate their birds to the Northeast Iowa Food Bank after the fair and this could not be a better time due to the food needs in our local community. Click [here](#) for more information.



Looking for more information?

Visit the Black Hawk County 4-H [webpage](#), find us on [Facebook](#), or call 234.6811!

A Great Way to Connect! The new 4-H Pen Pal Program that started in Black Hawk County to connect Iowa 4-H'ers with each other is going strong! 4-H'ers are being matched with another 4-H'er via email after filling out a brief survey. Youth contact each other through email first, then decide how they would like to communicate going forward. Black Hawk County 4-H emails out conversation prompts every Tuesday and Thursday to those who have signed up to participate to help keep the conversation going. To participate, youth can complete the [survey](#) and get ready to meet their Pen Pal! The program sign up will close on May 8th!



4-H Youth in Action Awards Close Soon! The application deadline for the National 4-H Youth in Action Award has been extended to May 18, 2020. Youth can share their stories of developing passion, finding purpose, and inspiring others. They can [apply online](#) for a chance to earn a \$5,000 scholarship and a trip to Washington, D.C. Take a look at an [inspiring video](#) by Micah Palacios, a 2020 Youth in Action award winner in Healthy Living.



Horse & Pony Club Starts in June! The meetings for the Horse & Pony Club will be held each Monday in June and July at Iron Horse Stables in Waterloo, starting on June 1st. Click [here](#) for the schedule and details. (Note: Meetings are subject to change based on COVID-19 guidance.)



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 from May 15th to June 15th.

Fair on the Radar!

Please visit the [Black Hawk County Youth and 4-H tab](#) on the Extension website or see the [4-H Livestock Homepage](#) for current updates!

Black Hawk County 4-H & FFA FAIR Reminders!

STEP ONE!
4Honline

STEP TWO!
FairEntry

• JUNE 1st
ALL LIVESTOCK (including dog and pets)

Must be entered into ia.4honline.com by **June 1st**, except RABBITS and they need to be entered online by **July 1st**. Please call 319-234-6811 if you need help.

STEP TWO!
FairEntry

• JUNE 1st – **YQCA** YOUTH QUALITY CARE ANIMALS
All 4-H'er's taking Market Animals to Fair must have YEARLY YQCA CERTIFICATE DONE!

• JULY 1st – STATE FAIR LIVESTOCK entries due.

• July 3rd – SPECIAL PROJECTS and PRESENTATIONS entered into blackhawk.fairentry.com
These INCLUDE: Crop & Garden Plot, Fashion Revue, \$15 Challenge, Clothing Selection, Working Exhibit, Ed Presentation, Extemp Speaking, Share the Fun.

• JULY 12th – **ALL LIVESTOCK & NON LIVESTOCK (STATIC) PROJECTS**
need to be entered into classes with Fair Entry at blackhawk.fairentry.com
(Sign in under Green 4Honline Button) by July 12th.

Important information for the June 1st deadline!

The Iowa 4-H Program in cooperation with and approval from the Iowa State Fair Board has decided to forego the retinal imaging requirement for sheep and meat goats for this upcoming Iowa State Fair 4-H show. 4-H swine will still be required to submit DNA samples as those can be collected by families at this time. Families with 4-H sheep and meat goats must tag their own animals (both breeding and market animals) and are required to upload 3 (three) photos for each animal into 4-H Online **by the June 1st ID deadline**. 4-H Online has been updated with photo upload fields. The three (3) photos must include one of each of the following:

- Clear, readable picture of the 4-H/USDA tag in the animal's ear
- Left, full side view of the animal
- Right, full side view of the animal



We are here to help!

Visit the Black Hawk County 4-H [webpage](#), find us on [Facebook](#), or call 234.6811!



All other required fields in 4-H Online will still be needed for identification purposes (i.e. tattoo numbers, birthdates, etc. as needed for the particular species). There will not be a rate of gain class at Fair so a weight on the animal is not needed at the time of tagging. All ewes must be tagged with a scrapie tag issued by the Iowa Department of Agriculture Land and Stewardship. Clover Lambs will NOT need a 4-H tag but will need to be identified by a scrapie tag or flock number. If taggers or tags are needed, or there any questions, please contact Diane Wolfe at 319.239.2745. For questions or issues with Fair Entry, please contact Judy at jmuniz@iastate.edu.

The YQCA (Youth for the Quality Care of Animals)



certification **deadline is June 1st**. This is required for all market and dairy animal exhibitors wishing to show at the Black Hawk County Fair or the Iowa State Fair. Please click [here](#) for details on Black Hawk County 4-H and FFA Fair YQCA requirements and registration information.

Reminder: All Livestock weigh-ins have been canceled through May 31st.

Is it Too Early to Work on A Fair Project?

No, now is a great time! If your 4-H'er has questions about Static Fair projects, have them check out the [Helpful Resources for County Fair Projects 2020](#). Do they need more ideas?



Have them navigate to the [Project Hot Sheets](#) for inspiration on everything from rabbits to digital storytelling to shooting sports!

Don't forget about the [Challenge Contests](#)! This year, the five challenge project categories are: Cupcake Baking, Herb Gardens, Garden Art, Barn or Sign Photography and Dollar Store Crafts. The Challenge contests take place on July 21st and are open to the public (4-H'ers too!) It is a great way to involve the community in the BHC Fair!

Stay Connected!

How is 4-H meeting the needs of 4-H club members when they cannot...meet? How is a sense of belonging and connection fostered? Iowa 4-H and Extension professionals across the state and nation have stepped up to the challenge of keeping youth engaged as well as finding ways to ensure they are able to connect with others and the world around them. One example is the [4-H Pen Pal program](#) started by Black Hawk County 4-H. Check in with your 4-H'ers to see if they want to meet someone new! To help stay connected, 4-H leaders are being encouraged to hold meetings with their clubs virtually and have been provided resources to do so. Please reach out to your club leader if you have questions or want to know more about virtual meetings. As a parent or guardian, you will need to provide permission for your 4-H'ers to participate and/or sit in on any meetings taking place online.

Are you looking for more for your family to do at home? The [Black Hawk County Extension and Outreach Facebook page](#) has 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. Check out the [National 4-H Facebook page](#) too!

Information at your Fingertips!

Visit the Black Hawk County 4-H [webpage](#), find us on [Facebook](#), or call 234.6811!



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One of the best ways for youth to have a sense of belonging is to work on a group project. Black Hawk County 4-H is working on [10,000 masks for the Iowa Veterans Home](#). Many other opportunities are also listed with the [Volunteer Center of the Cedar Valley](#).

What about starting a garden together? Iowa State University Extension and Outreach is hosting weekly [Sow, Grow, Eat and Keep "quickinars."](#) These quickinars are 5-15 minute online lessons of seasonally appropriate topics for the garden, food preparation and food preservation for all ages. The Black Hawk County Extension office has free seeds available! To order, email Steven Eilers at seilers@iastate.edu.



Iowa 4-H is asking high school aged 4-H'ers and adult family members to consider volunteering at 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. Due to COVID-19, Iowa has had a 65% increase in demand for food assistance. With over one third of Iowa's volunteers being 55+ and at higher risk for illness, there has been a significant decrease in volunteer resources. By volunteering, 4-H can make a difference in our community by ensuring all Iowans are able to have access to the food they need to survive. Information about being a COVID-19 volunteer can be found [here](#) and at the [Volunteer Center of the Cedar Valley](#).

Leader Spotlight

Name: Mary Seekins

Club/Location: Horse & Pony/Waterloo

Years of Service: 21

How long have you been involved with 4-H?

I have been in 4-H since I was in 4th grade as a 4-H'er in Webster County. I took a few years off to go to college and get married. Then I started back with 4-H as a club leader when my daughter

started as a Clover Kid. A few years ago, I moved to be the leader of the Horse and Pony club.

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

My Grandma was a leader in 4-H and my dad was in 4-H. He was on the 4-H Fair Board when I was growing up.

What motivates you to be a leader?

I wanted to give back to an organization that has given so many positive things to my family.

Name some of your favorite club activities.

Why are these favorites?

Horse and Pony mounted meetings and the Horse show at Fair are some of my favorite things to do with the kids. Watching the 4-H'ers learn and grow as horsemen is very rewarding. Watching kids struggle though a class but have the grit to go back in the next class is the best reward as a leader.



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

One year at Fair we were playing horse games after the official game horse show. The kids were supposed to pick up a tennis ball off an orange cone and then drop it on the next cone. It was a relay race. One of the members dropped it and was so flexible he was able to pick up the tennis ball off the ground without getting off his horse. The other 4-H members thought it was great and the crowd went wild. It is all about the memories!

Get In Touch!

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<https://www.extension.iastate.edu/blackhawk>

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