The Important Stuff!
Happy Holidays! We hope that everyone is staying healthy and feeling joy this holiday season. Although we may not be getting together in the same way this year, it is still a time to connect with family and friends, near or far. It is also a time for your 4-H’er to connect with their club and reflect on the last several months. It was a hard year, but there were also moments of happiness along the way! Given current guidance for maximum group gatherings, your club leaders may decide to hold virtual meetings or smaller meetings in lieu of typical in person meetings. Please help support these decisions so that your youth can continue to be a part of club activities. If you stop in the office or see Extension and Outreach staff at meetings and events, you may notice that we are masked up, even if we can social distance. As of November 17th, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach has a face covering mandate. This was implemented by Dr. John Lawrence after the Governor’s latest proclamation and is in effect until December 11th. It will be reevaluated and possibly extended at that time. No matter where you find us, you can be sure that we are still smiling behind our masks and ready to help!

We are here if you have questions about meetings, enrollment or other activities. Please keep your eye on your email, the Black Hawk County 4-H webpage or Facebook page for the latest news, updates, and events! Stay well!

The Good Stuff!
The Awards Banquet may not have happened this year, but that is not going to stop the awards from getting to our hard-working 4-H’ers and volunteers! In the coming weeks, 4-H staff will be reaching out to families to arrange delivery of this year’s awards to recipients’ doorsteps! We will even bring Record Books with us so no one has to make an extra trip to the office!

Important Dates
Dec. 5th: Shooting Sports—Canceled
Dec. 12th: Beef Weigh In at HCC, 8-10am
Dec. 18th: Last day of 4-H State Council Food Drive
Dec. 24th: Extension Office closed for holiday
Dec. 25th: Extension Office closed for holiday
Jan. 1st: Extension Office closed for holiday
Jan. 9th: Shooting Sports, 9am-Noon (All)
Let's Talk About December!
It is the last month of year + holiday season + the official start of winter in just a few weeks! There is a lot to keep track of! If you want to stay up to date on what is happening in Black Hawk County 4-H, just click on the planner in the Black Hawk County 4-H Bitmoji classroom. It has all the information you need for each month of the year!

So, what is going on in December? There is a virtual NE Iowa Show Goat Clinic, Beef Weigh In, and 4-H Family Mindful Mondays. The 4-H State Council food drive has been extended into December as well! Read on to learn more!

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

Is Everybody Enrolled? Please work to ensure your 4-H’ers are enrolled in 4HOnline this month. Enrollment in 4-H is required for youth to be covered by insurance as they attend meetings and activities. Do not forget that leaders and mentors must also enroll in 4HOnline for the same reason.

The $15 enrollment fee may be paid online during enrollment. If this option is not used, fees may be paid by cash or check. The Extension and Outreach office is unable to take payments by credit card. If you need 4HOnline assistance, please contact Judy at jmuniz@iastate.edu or 319.234.6811.

4H Online Help. There are 4HOnline resources available to families on the Iowa 4-H website. For the Family Enrollment Guide, which assists families with the enrollment steps, please navigate here and scroll down to the link. This also covers adult enrollment procedures.

Shooting Sports Schedule Update! The Shooting Sports meeting scheduled for Saturday, December 5th has been canceled. The next meeting will be on Saturday, January 9th. This will include Shooting Sports from 9am-10:45am and Archery from 10:45-11:30am. Meetings are held at Chickasaw Hall on the Hawkeye Community College campus on the first Saturday each month. Did you know that Shooting Sports are open to all 4-H’ers in 4th grade and older? See the schedule and find out more here!

Is Fair on Your Radar? 4-H families interested in more information about meat goats can join Show expert Tayler Etzel (Cargill Animal Nutrition) for a virtual clinic covering topics such as meat goat selection, daily care and nutrition, show day prep and showmanship. Families need to RSVP by December 4th. An email with the meeting link and directions will be sent out to RSVP families on December 7th.

Questions? Contact Michele Kelly at the Fayette County Extension and Outreach office at 563.425.3331 or kellymd@iastate.edu.

We have answers to your questions!
Visit the Black Hawk County 4-H webpage, find us on Facebook, or call 319.234.6811!
More for Your Radar! The Black Hawk County 4-H Beef Weigh In will be held at Hawkeye Community College on Saturday, December 12th from 8-10am. Please note that upon arrival, all families and animals must stay in vehicles until it is their turn to weigh in. For more information on 4-H Livestock Weigh Ins for this year, please see this page. Contact Diane at 319.234.6811 with any questions.

NEW FOR 2021
FAMILIES WILL ENTER ALL 4-H MARKET BEEF DATA INTO 4-H ONLINE 2.0
- All Market Beef animal data MUST be entered by February 1st
- An animal can ONLY be identified under ONE 4-H member
- County Staff will verify and/or correct animal ID information after families enter data

4-H Online 2.0 Website
https://v2.4honline.com

State 4-H Council Food Drive Extended! The State 4-H Council has extended its statewide effort to collect non-perishable food items for donation to local food pantries across Iowa until Friday, December 18th. Why have a food drive? The answer is in the video below.

Donations can be dropped off at the Black Hawk County Extension and Outreach office Monday through Friday, 8:00am-4:30pm.

Mindfulness for Families! Check out this virtual offering from Iowa 4-H in December. Be sure to register for the session you want to attend!

It's All About H2O! Any Iowa youth can tune in and learn how water connects us all and what we can do to protect it in Iowa. Youth can register for one of the hour-long sessions and receive a kit of supplies in the mail:
https://forms.gle/MSq2JFpiVnjGc55q6.

Who Loves Science? If you know a female-identifying youth in 3rd-6th grade who does, the Spring 2021 Science Explorations Virtual Camp is for her! Sponsored by the Program for Women in Science and Engineering (WiSE), campers will learn about...

Search for Something?
Visit the Black Hawk County 4-H webpage, find us on Facebook, or call 319.234.6811!
science and engineering by participating in exciting and engaging activities led by Iowa State University students in STEM majors. Registration ends December 31st. More information here!

Attention High School Seniors! Applications for Iowa 4-H Foundation college scholarships are now open! This scholarship program offers over 90 scholarships worth more than $100,000, all made possible through generous donors to the Iowa 4-H Foundation. Application deadline for all scholarships is February 1, 2021. Please visit this page for more information!

A Picture Perfect Opportunity! The Iowa 4-H Camera Corps is still taking applications for 2020-2021. Being a part of the Camera Corps is a great way for youth to practice photography skills, receive public recognition, and juror feedback on their work. Find more information and a link to the application here!

Save the Date! Iowa Extension Council Association (IECA) and 4-H Legislative Day will be held virtually on Wednesday, February 17, 2021. Legislative Day is open to Extension Council members, 4-H members in grades 8-12, and Extension supporters. More information about the event and registration details can be found on the IECA and 4-H Legislative Day webpage.

4-H Club Grants! Pioneer is offering support for the Seed Grant Program for Iowa 4-H club community improvement projects. This is a great opportunity for clubs to obtain “seed money” and work together to complete a project benefitting their community! Applications due mid-January 2021. Details here!

4-H Meeting Guidance Update. 4-H leaders were notified last month regarding changes to Iowa 4-H Guidance and Expectations following the Governor’s most recent proclamation. It included these important items:

- Extension indoor programs and events, including 4-H club meetings, are limited to 15 people
- Extension outdoor programs and events, including 4-H club meetings, are limited to 30 people
- Face coverings are required when people are indoors and unable to social distance for 15 minutes or longer
  (Exceptions: See Open for Iowa)
- The use of face coverings is a best practice at all times

Leaders may consider various alternatives if their club meeting attendance is 15 or more, including all youth, adult helpers and leaders. Options include virtual or hybrid (virtual and in person) meetings, gathering outdoors (30 or less attendees), or breaking the club into smaller groups with shorter meetings with each group. Please support your club leaders as they work to follow the Iowa 4-H guidelines to keep our 4-H families healthy! Contact your club leader with questions about upcoming meetings. For general guidance inquiries, contact Diane Wolfe, CYC, at 319.234.6811 or wolfejd@iastate.edu.

Winter To Do List!
As the days get colder, we start to think about staying inside, but there is still so much to do outside before the snow really starts flying! Check out Enjoying Iowa’s Natural Resources During Covid-19 from Iowa State University and Outreach Natural Resource Stewardship. There are resources for bird watching, animal tracking, building projects for Iowa wildlife, coloring pages, and more!

We can help!
Visit the Black Hawk County 4-H webpage, find us on Facebook, or call 319.234.6811!
If you are looking for a way for your family to give back this holiday season, take a look at the *Holiday Opportunities 2020* on the Volunteer Center of Cedar Valley website. You can help organizations in person or from home, depending on needs. Tis the season for service!

**Leader Spotlight**

*Name: Debbie Paulsen*

*Club/Location: Cedar Falls Hustling Clovers/ Cedar Falls*

*Years of Service: 7*

**How long have you been involved with 4-H?**

I started as a leader in 2013. As a youth, I joined the Union Clovers 4-H Club in 1989.

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

My husband was also very active in 4-H. His brother, Chuck, has contributed greatly to Black Hawk County 4-H, as well as their mother, Gloria.

**What motivates you to be a leader?**

My time and experiences as a 4-H youth made a significant impact on me. I wanted to pass along those same opportunities to others.

**Name some of your favorite club activities. Why are these favorites?**

While we did not go this year, a long tradition in our club is to celebrate the end of the fair and the 4-H year with Laser Tag in August. Oftentimes, we find a reason to bake. We have had some epic entries and runs at the pie auction. We thoroughly enjoy planning and executing our Parade of Clubs entry.

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

On a whim, we decided to hold a bake sale at TSC. We didn't know what to expect, but our members had done a great job of organizing and preparing for the event. We had a grand time staffing the booth inside the store and taking turns promoting ourselves in the parking lot. At the end of the day, we had made around $300 with plenty of goodies still leftover to give to local first responders at Christmas time. The highlight of the day was a random customer who made a special stop to give a $25 contribution...he didn't want any baked goods, just wanted to support our club's activities.

The Black Hawk County 4-H staff wishes all of you, your families, and your club members good health and happiness this holiday season!