**December 2021**

**The Important Stuff!**
Before we know it, there will be snow on the ground and school will be out for the holiday break! How did this year go so fast? Maybe it has something to do with 2021 being a year to catch up on some missed gatherings, events, and vacations! We hope you did not miss the Black Hawk County 4-H Awards Banquet that was held on November 21st. It was a great opportunity to recognize 4-H youth for their achievements in club activities and project work, and our adult volunteers for their service to the 4-H program. A reminder...please enroll or re-enroll all youth in 4HOnline! The deadline has been extended to January 3rd. Give the Extension office a call at 319.234.6811 if you have any questions. Happy holidays!

**The Good Stuff!**
The Black Hawk County 4-H Awards Banquet was an important event in November (see page 3), but there were other great things happening as well! *Virtual Fun with 4-H!* took place on November 2nd. Participants made kindness rocks as part of their focus on being thankful and expressing gratitude to others. On November 8th, the Black Hawk County 4-H Dog Project workshop, *Let’s Talk Safety!*, welcomed Alex Writz, a professional dog trainer and our 4-H Dog Obedience leader.

She spoke to 4-H members about canine body language, being safe around dogs, keeping dogs safe from other dogs, and foods that they should not eat. Thank you to Alex for this important and interesting information! As part of the workshop, 4-H’ers and Clover Kids made yummy dog treats to take home, along with kits to make more!
Let’s Talk About December!
Black Hawk County 4-H is hoping your holiday season is off to a great start! We have a festive Virtual Fun with 4-H! coming up on Tuesday, December 7th, so make plans to join us! We also encourage you to give your family the gift of time together to enjoy the season and the magic of our Iowa winter. Maybe it is a good opportunity to get outside for some photography or nature exploration? Head to the National 4-H website for tips on the importance of ‘leaving no trace’ when exploring the world we share with other living creatures! Looking ahead to 2022? Check out the Black Hawk County 4-H Calendar, and stay up to date on events by navigating to the Black Hawk County 4-H webpage, following us on our Facebook page, or by checking your email for brief reminders.

The Time is Now! The re-enrollment/enrollment deadline for current 4-H’ers has been extended to January 3rd! Enrollment in 4HOnline is required for all 4-H members to be covered by insurance as they attend 4-H meetings and activities. Youth that are new to 4-H after January 3rd may still enroll at any time. The $15 youth enrollment fee may be paid online during enrollment or by cash or check (only) through the Extension office after enrollment. Questions? 4HOnline resources are available on the Iowa 4-H website. For the Family Enrollment Guide, which assists with enrollment steps, please navigate here and scroll down to the link. This also provides information for adult enrollment. For more help, contact Judy at jmuniz@iastate.edu or 319.234.6811.

Beginners Welcome! Black Hawk County 4-H Shooting Sports meets the first Saturday of each month. Shooting Sports is from 9:00-10:45am and Archery takes place from 10:45-11:30am in Chickasaw Hall at Hawkeye Community College. If 4-Her’s want to bring a friend, please call the Extension office in advance for more information. Open to 4th graders and older. Learn more about Shooting Sports and Archery here or call 319.234.6811.

Holiday Hands-On Fun! The December 'Virtual Fun with 4-H!' will be on Tuesday, December 7th from 6:00-6:45pm. We will be learning how to make paper decorations and ornaments. The event is open to all youth in grades K-12. The simple supplies needed can be found around your home: paper or recycled holiday cards, pencil, scissors, glue/glue stick, and string. Zoom in by registering here!

We have answers to your questions! Visit the Black Hawk County 4-H webpage, find us on Facebook, or call 319.234.6811!
Attention 4-H’ers! All 4-H members wanting to show Market Beef at the 2022 Black Hawk County 4-H & FFA Fair, must have their animals weighed in on Saturday, December 11th. Weigh-in takes place from 8:00-10:00am at Hawkeye Community College Farm. Youth have to be enrolled in 4-H to attend weigh-in and to enter their animal information in 4HOnline. Clover Kids do not have to weigh-in their animals. Questions? Please call Diane at 319.234.6811.

January Dog Project Workshop! Love dogs? This is for you! Open to all 4-H’ers. Sign up here!

4-H Judges Training! Iowa 4-H is hosting a free statewide virtual judges training for those interested in becoming a judge or refreshing their skills. The training applies to all static categories and is required to judge 4-H exhibits at any county fair or state fair event. To learn more, see the Information for Judges webpage.

Heading to College? Applications for Iowa 4-H Foundation college scholarships are available! Learn about the scholarships and how to apply for them here.

Congratulations! It was wonderful to host our annual Black Hawk County 4-H Awards Banquet in person this year and to honor the achievements of 4-H awardees, volunteers, and 4-H alumni. We were happy to welcome Julia Deppe, of Iowa 4-H State County Council, who shared her love of 4-H, the importance of getting involved, and information about the State County Council and Youth Conference. We are proud of all our awardees and can’t wait to see what next year brings! Check out the full list of award recipients here. To see more pictures from the event click here.

The Black Hawk County Extension office will be closed December 23rd-27th and December 31st for the holidays.

4-H Family Fun Night!
Saturday, January 22nd
5:00-8:00pm
at UNI Wellness Center
2301 Hudson Rd, Cedar Falls
No Charge for 4-H Youth (enrolled) and families.
4-Hers may bring a friend.
All Youth must have a signed Permission Waiver by Parent or Guardian.
You can find waiver at: https://www.extension.iastate.edu/blackhawk/news/4-h-family-fun-night
Light refreshments will be served.
Questions? Contact Diane Wolfe at dlwole@iastate.edu or call 319-234-6811.

Searching for Something?
Visit the Black Hawk County 4-H webpage, find us on Facebook, or call 319.234.6811!
HAPPY RETIREMENT JUDY!

On January 1, 2022, Judy Muniz will be enjoying her first day of retirement! Although we are sad that we will not have her talents, skills, and smile in the Black Hawk County Extension office each day, we could not be happier for her to have free time to spend doing the things she loves to do! We asked Judy to reflect on her experience and work with 4-H over the years and she was kind enough to share her thoughts. Thank you Judy!

How would you describe your personal 4-H history? Rich! We are a 5-generation 4-H family! My grandmother was very involved in 4-H throughout her youth at the local and state level. We have a picture of her from 1920 with a huge group of 4-H’ers in Ames. My father, her son, was the leader of a boys’ 4-H club in Bremer County. I was in 4-H in Bremer County throughout my childhood, as were all three of my siblings. One of my daughters was a 4-H’er in Black Hawk County. This year, one of my grandsons joined the Mt. Vernon Pals as a Clover Kid!

When did you start working with the 4-H program in Black Hawk County and what have you enjoyed about it? I started my job in November 2014. I enjoy seeing what the kids bring to the fair and love it when they are proud of what they have accomplished and the work they have put into the things that they have made.

Do you have a favorite memory to share? Every year, the fair is the highlight for me. It is great to see the kids having a good time being there, expressing their creativity in workshops with me, and learning and having fun at the same time during the STEM Fair. I also get a kick out of how much the kids enjoy climbing the rock wall at the Family Fun Night at the UNI Wellness Center.

Are there some things you will miss about your job? I will miss all the people! I work with a great staff at the office. There are so many 4-H families that I admire for their togetherness and bond with each other. I will miss seeing that.

What are you looking forward to in retirement? The gift of more time to be creative, travel, and spend with my grandkids!

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