JANUARY 2021

The Important Stuff!
Happy 2021 to all! It is a new year and a new look for the Black Hawk County 4-H News! This year, we will be publishing one newsletter for the Black Hawk County 4-H community. The newsletters will be posted on the Black Hawk County Extension and Outreach website on the first Wednesday of every month. Leaders and families will receive an email reminder when it is available. We hope everyone is staying healthy and looking forward to some brighter days ahead as the COVID-19 vaccine is distributed throughout the population. Please be aware that Iowa State Extension and Outreach still has a face covering mandate in place until March 31st. *Face coverings are required when people are indoors regardless of social distancing capability. This applies to in-person club meetings, programs, and events. Extension events, including 4-H clubs and other Extension programming, are limited to 15 participants indoors, and 30 for outdoor events until further notice. We ask that you support this [Iowa 4-H guidance](#) as club meetings, workshops and events will have to look different until guidelines are revised. Please contact Diane Wolfe at 319.234.6811 with questions. Stay well!*

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Let’s Talk About January!
We are kicking off the year with hope and some snow at last! There are also many opportunities for 4-H’ers and clubs to learn and connect with others, even if they cannot be in the same location. Club and family projects? We have ideas for you! Don’t forget that it is never too early to start working on fair projects. This time of year is perfect for focusing on new skills and investing time in a creative endeavor! If you are looking for resources on project areas, take a look right here. If you have questions about anything else, such as meetings, enrollment or other activities, feel free to reach out to your leaders or 4-H staff. Watch your email, the Black Hawk County 4-H webpage or Facebook page for the latest news and updates!

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

Enrollment Deadlines! If your 4-H’ers are not enrolled in 4HOnline, please take a few minutes to do so! Enrollment in 4-H is required for youth to be covered by insurance as they attend meetings and activities. The enrollment fee is $15 per 4-H member until January 15th. After that date, the full fee of $30.00 applies. Did you know that there is no cost for Clover Kids (K-3rd grade)? Families with 3 or more youth members only pay $45.00! There are several ways to pay 4-H enrollment fees in 2021. You can pay the annual fee by credit card when you register your youth for the 4-H program online. If you choose not to use your credit card, you can write a check to Black Hawk County Extension and Outreach and send it by mail to the address on page 5. The last option is to pay your leader. If you have questions, feel free to contact the Extension and Outreach office at 319.234.6811.

Thank You! Iowans pledged their hands to larger service this holiday season by donating over 21,000 food items in just 7 weeks to those in need! All 100 Iowa State University Extension and Outreach county offices across the state participated and exceeded the State 4-H Council’s original donation goal. Council members wanted to ensure that local food pantries were full during the holiday season. Black Hawk County, THANK YOU... we donated 160 items to this cause!

Workshop: On Their Own & Ok. This is a free workshop to strengthen skills in youth (4th-6th grade) who may care for themselves and/or siblings after school when they are home alone for a limited time. The workshop will be offered in person on January 16th from 9-11am at the Black Hawk County Extension and Outreach office. For more information and to register, click here!

Attention Clubs: Pioneer Seed Grants! This is a great opportunity for clubs to obtain “seed money” and work together on a project that benefits their community. Grants will range from $50 to a maximum of $500. Applications are due to the Black Hawk County Extension office by January 20th. Details here!

We have answers to your questions!
Visit the Black Hawk County 4-H webpage, find us on Facebook, or call 319.234.6811!
Interested in Health and Wellness? The National 4-H Healthy Living Summit is being held virtually February 12-15th and is open to 9th through 12th graders! Participants will have the opportunity to connect with youth from all over the country. Registration is $75 and open until January 18th. Please visit the National Youth Summits page for more information and registration details.

A Great Opportunity! Applications are due February 1st! Navigate here for more details!

And Another One! Applications for Iowa 4-H Foundation college scholarships are open. This scholarship program offers over 90 scholarships worth more than $100,000, all made possible through generous Iowa 4-H Foundation donors. The application deadline for all scholarships is February 1st. Please visit this page for more information!

State 4-H Recognition Day Is Approaching!
In addition to the above opportunities, there are others in which 4-H members in grades 9-12 can apply and be selected for special statewide awards and trips. Interested in State 4-H Council, National 4-H Congress, or being a Teen Equity Influencer? This page has all the opportunities and information! All applications are due by February 1st!

Fair On the Radar! Next up, beef data entry is due in 4HOnline! It must be in by February 1st!

Let’s Learn! Animal U promotes youth connection to and involvement in animal agriculture. It allows all youth the opportunity to increase their knowledge of species, the science and technology associated with animal agriculture, and potential careers in food production. Find out more here!

Let’s Explore! Polk County 4-H is offering a new program called Oh the Places You Could Go! This is a career exploration series open to any youth in 4th through 12th grade. Youth will hear inspiring stories from Iowa professionals and community leaders from a broad range of career experiences. The virtual series runs from January to May. Details and registration here.

Let’s Make Stuff! Cedar Valley Makers is inviting Cedar Valley youth to participate in

--- Calling All Young Makers ---

Cedar Valley Maker Fest

Virtual Youth Competition

The Cedar Valley Maker Fest is a virtual showcase of projects made by our community. Youth, ages 9-18 have the opportunity to participate in a friendly competition by submitting a short video about something they made. Contest videos are due on March 20, 2021. Happy Making!

--- Learn more and register! ---

cedarvalleymakers.org/makerfest

Searching for Something?
Visit the Black Hawk County 4-H webpage, find us on Facebook, or call 319.234.6811!
their virtual Cedar Valley Maker Fest! This is a fun and creative opportunity for individual 4-H youth or clubs. Would you or your club like to learn more about the Cedar Valley Makers Space? Maybe host a guest speaker (virtual option available)? Contact Sarah Tanis at stanis@iastate.edu to get connected!

It’s a World Tour! Global Citizenship is offering a monthly newsletter to explore culture and food in 2021. This newsletter, *Around the World in 12 Dishes*, will travel to a new country each month to learn about its history, culture, and recipes. Newsletters are sent once a month until the end of December 2021. Everyone is invited to join! Sign up [here](#)!

What is SSTFI? It is the State Science + Technology Fair of Iowa and it is open to all students in Iowa in grades 6-12. Over $50,000 in scholarship prizes will be awarded with no qualifier fair required. Register by February 1st for a free SSTFI t-shirt and pin. To learn more, visit the Iowa 4-H Youth Development page!

Winter To Do List!
Even with cold temperatures and snow on the ground, there are still things that clubs and families can do outside! Have you heard about the County Park Adventure Series? The Water Rocks! team put together family-friendly activities to explore at one park in each of the 99 counties of Iowa. Give them a try this winter and again in the spring! Did you know that Hartman Reserve has snowshoes available for rental? The whole family can join in the fun! They have a range of sizes for both on and off-site rentals, and daily or weekend rates. If you are searching for something to do indoors, there are many great offerings in Black Hawk County! The Volunteer Center of Cedar Valley has MLK Day of Service take-home project kits for families. Since everything can be done at home, this can be turned into a club initiative, too! For more home-based activities, watch for the Kids in the Kitchen kits coming soon to the Hudson and Dunkerton Public Libraries! They will be available for pick up on a first come, first served basis. There are also many activity ideas on the Kids in the Kitchen At Home [webpage](#)! Bingo anyone? :)

In Case You Missed It...check out all of the 2020 Black Hawk County 4-H award winners on the Black Hawk County 4-H website! You will see a list of all of the individuals that received recognition in each award category as well as photos and videos that highlight the accomplishments of Black Hawk County 4-H members, leaders and volunteers. More on the next page too!

Hey 4-H’ers! If you received a 4-H award and would like to thank the Awards Banquet sponsors, just go [here](#) and look for the image (at left) at the bottom of the page. It will mean a lot for the sponsors to hear from you!

Answers at your fingertips!
Visit the Black Hawk County 4-H [webpage](#), find us on [Facebook](#), or call 319.234.6811!
Leader(ship) Spotlight
This month, we are dedicating our Leader Spotlight feature to two special Black Hawk County 4-H volunteers, Mary Esther Pullin and Nancy Schmitz. They were recognized for 50 years of service in 2020! Please watch the videos about the commitment Mary Esther and Nancy have to the 4-H program and read their stories below. We are honored and thankful to have Mary Esther and Nancy as part of our 4-H family in Black Hawk County!

Mary Esther (Harper) Pullin
Not only for the 10 years she spent as a 4-H club member in Indiana did Mary Esther (Harper) Pullin hold the organization’s motto “To make the best better” tightly in her heart, but time has proved she never stopped believing it. As an adult, she has dedicated over 50 years to bringing 4-H participation and inspiration into the lives of others. This year the Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Black Hawk County 4-H program is sharing the great news about Mary Esther’s years of volunteering, by honoring her with the 50-year Ruby Pin. We salute...read more.

Nancy Schmitz
The Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Black Hawk County 4-H program is honored to recognize Nancy Schmitz for 50 years of service! Nancy has a rich and vibrant 4-H history. She was in 4-H for eight years as a youth, serving on County Council as a teen. Nancy has been a leader of the Mt. Vernon Pals 4-H club in Black Hawk County for 50 years, serves as a Superintendent at the Black Hawk County 4-H and FFA Fair, and has supported the Black Hawk County 4-H Fair Foundation and Iowa 4-H Foundation for many years. In 2002, her family was recognized as a Century 4-H Family and in 2011, she and her husband, Dan, were inducted into the Iowa 4-H Hall of Fame. Nancy and Dan...read more.