JUNE 2021

The Important Stuff!

June not only marks the end of school, it is the beginning of summer and the countdown to Fair! There are many opportunities to get out and have some fun, too! This month, we kick off 4-H day camps and library programs. Don’t forget about the 4-H float in the Sturgis Falls parade! Wondering about how to participate in the Black Hawk County 4-H & FFA Fair? Read on! Iowa State University Extension and Outreach has updated safety guidelines for 4-H activities. Please review the most current Iowa 4-H guidance. If you have questions, please contact Diane Wolfe at 319.234.6811 Stay well!

The Good Stuff!

Dog Obedience has kicked off for 2021! 4-H’ers and their pups are now on a learning journey together. Each week brings new challenges, more practice, and lots of good treats for the 4-legged participants! On May 21st, Black Hawk County 4-H facilitated Progressive Ag Safety Day at Dunkerton Elementary School. The students learned about Bike Safety, Water Safety, Firearm Safety, Weather Safety, Sun Safety and more! We were very happy to have Elijah and Quincy Zuck, Lester Livewires club members, as Livestock Safety presenters. Ellie Magee, a Lester Livewires club alum, helped us out as a 4-H volunteer. It was a great day!
Let’s Talk About June!
Take a look at your calendar because we have some great things to put on there! Now is the time to sign up for day camps and to represent Black Hawk County 4-H at a parade. It is also time to get those projects rolling for Fair! Looking for more information? It is in this newsletter, but you can also keep an eye on your email, the Black Hawk County 4-H webpage or Facebook page for the latest news and updates! As always, if you have questions about what is going on this month, reach out to your leaders or 4-H staff. We are here to help!

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

Enrollment Reminder. Enrollment in 4-H is **required** for youth to be covered by insurance as they attend meetings, events, and activities. Go to 4HOnline to enroll!

Thank You! Black Hawk County 4-H is thankful for the time and expertise shared by our Progressive Ag Safety Day presenters on May 21st! We also appreciate the sponsors that helped us supply Safety Day totes for the students to take home at the end of the event.

The Chicks are on the Way! If your family ordered broiler chicks, please stop at the office on Thursday, June 3rd between 11:00am and 1:00pm to pick them up. The club that donates the most chicken to the Northeast Iowa Food Bank wins a pizza party! Individual donors can also indicate a club to get credit for their donated broilers. See this [link](#) for more information!

Fair on the Radar! Hey 4-H’ers, you can start entering your projects for the Black Hawk County& FFA Fair in blackhawk.fairentry.com! You can make entries in the Fair Entry program for the 2021 Iowa State Fair 4-H Livestock & Horticulture shows, too! Those need to be in by July 1st! More dates below...

We have answers to your questions!
Visit the Black Hawk County 4-H webpage, find us on Facebook, or call 319.234.6811!
Horse & Pony Meetings Begin! Black Hawk County 4-H Horse & Pony meetings start on Monday, June 7th and will be held every Monday through July 26th. All regular meetings take place at Iron Horse Stables (8719 Hawkeye Rd.) in Waterloo. The last meeting is at the National Cattle Congress grounds for fair set up. Contact Mary Seekins at maryseekins12@gmail.com with any questions.

Communication is Key! We are always looking for better ways to communicate with our 4-Her's and our 4-H families! Our goal is to ensure that our website, emails, and social media sources are helpful and easily accessible. Please fill out this short survey so we can better serve you!

How About A Day Camp? Sign up now for Black Hawk County 4-H day camps! Watch Me Grow! day camp helps youth learn how farmers grow the fruits and vegetables that are on their plate every day. With fun activities like creating a compost jar, dissecting and planting seeds, trying fresh vegetables, and making salsa, it is a great way to learn about being sustainable and healthy. Watch Me Grow! day camps take place at the Cedar Valley Arboretum from 9:00am-3:00pm. The cost is $15. Here are the dates!
- Monday, June 14th for students completing K - 2nd grade
- Wednesday, June 16th for students completing 3rd - 5th grades
Pay and sign up online here!

Save The Dates! Black Hawk County 4-H will be offering Fizz, Bubble & Goo day camps on Monday, June 21st and 23rd! Stay tuned for more details on the Black Hawk County 4-H webpage and Facebook page.

More 4-H Summer Fun! There are some great one-day 4-H experiences this year! The Iowa 4-H Youth Conference and Animal Science Round Up, Quest To Be Your Best, is being held on July 1st. 4-H Junior Camp is on July 7th. Registration is still open for both. Please read more about each adventure and how to register if you are a Junior or Senior 4-H'er. Questions? Check in with Diane at wolfejd@iastate.edu.

Sign Up by June 15th and Save $10!

Sign Up by June 7th!

Ends Soon! 4-H Clubs across the state are encouraged to donate to the 4-H’ers for 4-H Campaign! The funds raised benefit financial aid, State 4-H Conference, and other projects as voted upon by the State 4-H Council. The campaign runs through June 15, 2021.

Searching for Something?
Visit the Black Hawk County 4-H webpage, find us on Facebook, or call 319.234.6811!
It’s A Virtual Camp! Navigate here for more information and to register for this no-travel camp. Cost is $20. If you have questions, contact isek@iastate.edu.

Could It Be You? The Black Hawk County 4-H & FFA Fair Queen and King Contest has begun! Contestants must be at least 16 years of age and not more than 21 years of age on August 12, 2021. They also must be an active member of at least one service organization in their community (not limited to 4-H or FFA) and have participated in the Black Hawk County 4-H/FFA Fair. For the full contest rules and application, please see this link!

Resources for Fair Exhibits! Downloadable guides for all project areas can be found at the Extension Store. Did you know that a Color Wheel can help you select colors or review concepts such as hue, value, and intensity? You can use this resource for 4-H project area learning that involves design, including gardening, clothing, home improvement, or visual arts. If you are planning to use an Iowa State trademark in your 4-H project for the county or state fair, you must receive permission to show your project. Here is how!

Fair Books Available! It is the ultimate guide to all the shows, rules, and regulations for the Black Hawk County 4-H & FFA Fair! You can get it by downloading or picking one up at the Extension office today! Don’t forget to check out the Fair Schedule of Events to see what else is happening during Fair Week!

Answers at Your Fingertips!
Visit the Black Hawk County 4-H webpage, find us on Facebook, or call 319.234.6811!
Attention High School 4-H’ers! More information on these fantastic scholarship and award opportunities can be found on the Black Hawk 4-H & Youth tab of the Black Hawk County Extension website. Look for these in the right hand column of the page and click the link for the application form. If you have any questions about the application requirements or process, please call Diane or Judy at 319.234.6811.

Fun With Food! Food Master kits are designed for a family and there are lots of activities, recipes and even a scavenger hunt! Participants have a chance at a grand prize in September. Scan the QR code or here for more information!

Welcome! We are very pleased to welcome two new faces to Black Hawk County 4-H this summer! Kacie Herring is on board as our Summer Fair Assistant! She is attending UNI and majoring in Psychology, minoring in Family Service and Mental Health. Her career goal is to become a Mental Health Therapist. Kacie is going to be busy helping us get ready for the Black Hawk County 4-H & FFA Fair and will be a familiar face to many there since she is a Black Hawk County 4-H alum! We are also excited to introduce, Meg Durbahn, our AmeriCorps Summer STEM Program Assistant/Intern. She attends the University of Iowa and grew up in Waterloo. Meg will be working with kids this summer at our STEM day camps and library programs, creating STEM take-home activity kits, helping with the STEM Fair at the Black Hawk County 4-H & FFA Fair, and any other STEM-related activities that can fit in the schedule! Great to have you with us, Kacie and Meg!

Questions About the COVID-19 Vaccine? If you or someone you know would like more information about COVID-19 vaccines from the Iowa Department of Public Health and the University of Iowa, recorded information sessions are available here.

We can help! Visit the Black Hawk County 4-H webpage, find us on Facebook, or call 319.234.6811!
4-H Leader Spotlight

Name: Michelle Pezley  
Club/Location: Cedar Falls Lucky Hawks/Cedar Falls  
Years of Service: 13

How long have you been involved with 4-H?
In 4th grade, I joined the 4-H Wizards in Henry County, IA, and was active in 4-H all through school. In high school, I held leadership roles on the county level, was actively involved in our county council, and expanded my leadership as part of the Southeast Iowa Area 4-H council. In college, my 4-H involvement included being the collegiate 4-H club president, volunteering at the state 4-H office, and working one summer at the state 4-H office planning events for the Iowa State Fair. Before coming to Black Hawk County, I served on the communications project area committee in Henry County.

Have other members of your family participated in 4-H? If so, whom?
4-H has always been a family activity for me. Growing up both of my parents were 4-H leaders (2 different clubs), my mom held county leadership roles, and both of my brothers were very active in 4-H. My daughter, Megan, joined the Cedar Falls Lucky Hawks in 1st grade and remained active through high school graduation. My son, John, is currently in his eleventh year of 4-H. About 11 years ago, my husband Shawn began leading 4-H FIRST LEGO League (FLL) teams for Black Hawk County.

What motivates you to be a leader?
I’m motivated by seeing the youths’ pride once they have mastered new skills and experienced the fruits of their labors. For me, some of the highlights have included helping FLL members (4th-8th graders) learn to answer judges’ questions, teaching youth to create marketing pieces for their solutions to real world problems, introducing 4-Hers to giving presentations, and teaching 4-Hers how to create 4-H write-ups.

Name some of your favorite club activities. Why are these favorites?
The Cedar Falls Lucky Hawks have several fun club traditions which I enjoy (and missed this past year). Each February the club members gather for a couple of hours to cook breakfast for their families. The families then join the meeting to eat and observe the installation of officers. I also enjoy our club’s Achievement Day. I love seeing what the kids have been preparing for fair, their growth, and how much projects change between then and fair (usually 4 or 5 days).

Please share a memorable story from your experience as a leader/mentor!
I’m struggling to select just one story. There are so many, but they all seem to have the same theme. I love seeing the kids grow in their leadership, communication, citizenship, and organizational skills and then watching as their hard work is recognized both through verbal affirmations and actual awards. I love observing how this success builds kids’ confidence and then watching them try harder tasks in the future. This growth is awesome.

CONNECT WITH US

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