MARCH 2021
The Important Stuff!
March is National Read Across America month! Did you know that research shows that one of the strongest predictors of school success is reading to children and having books in the home? This is why the Iowa Agriculture Literacy Foundation, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, Iowa 4-H Youth Development and the Iowa State Education Association are kicking off a Read Across Iowa celebration for the month of March. The theme for this year is Agriculture! Black Hawk County 4-H has some great plans for this event. More information is available on page 2 of this newsletter! As we get a taste of nicer weather and look forward to spending more time outdoors, please remember that Iowa State University Extension and Outreach has a face covering mandate in place until at least March 31st. **Face coverings are required when people are indoors regardless of social distancing capability. They are also required outdoors if 6-foot social distancing is not possible.** This applies to in-person club meetings, programs, and events. Thank you for supporting this [Iowa 4-H guidance](https://www.extension.iastate.edu/4-h/). Please contact Diane Wolfe at 319.234.6811 with questions. Stay well!

The Good Stuff!
On February 20th, Black Hawk County 4-H’ers learned how to snowshoe and about how wildlife survive in the winter! Thanks to Sam, the AmeriCorps member serving at Hartman Reserve, for guiding the group and providing such great information! In other news, 28 of our fabulous Black Hawk County 4-H leaders participated in a hybrid meeting for Annual Leader Training on February 25th!
Let's Talk About March!
Spring arrives this month! Time will tell if the weather decides to cooperate:) This is an important month to think about how reading impacts the lives of youth. Have you read to or with your kids lately? If they are too old for that, when was the last time you asked them what book they are reading right now? In fact, what are YOU reading currently? Have an engaged conversation, visit a public library or a local bookstore, and take a moment to read. Don’t forget to check out all the Read Across Iowa happenings too! Reading can also help your 4-H’ers start thinking about ideas for fair projects! Here is a good place to begin! If you have questions about what is going on this month, 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 March and the months to come!

Is Everybody Enrolled? Enrollment in 4-H is required for youth to be covered by insurance as they attend meetings and activities. There is no cost for Clover Kids (K-3rd grade) and 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 by credit card when you register your youth for the 4-H program online, write a check to Black Hawk County Extension and Outreach and send it by mail to the Extension office, or pay your leader. If you have questions, feel free to contact the Extension and Outreach office at 319.234.6811.

Join the Fun! As part of Read Across Iowa, Black Hawk County 4-H will do a Facebook Live bedtime reading of children’s books about agriculture every Wednesday evening in March at 8:00pm on the Black Hawk County Outreach & 4-H Facebook page! Youth can participate in a fun check off activity for a chance to win books and goodies in a drawing the first week of April! If Wednesdays do not work well for your family, Chickasaw County 4-H and some of the authors will be reading on different days and times. Youth can read the books on their own, too! Find the reading schedule, book details, and link to the check off sheet here.

Pledge Your Hands to Larger Service!
Gardening to Give is an initiative to feed others and support Iowa food pantries. Register here for gardening and growing activities, research-based information, and weekly challenges!

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 Dairy? The Iowa Youth Dairy Coalition is taking place in Ames, in person, on March 27th from 10am to 6pm. It is open to all youth ages 10-18. A farm background is not required to experience this educational and fun event! The deadline to register is Friday, March 12th. See this link for more information.

Hey Makers! Cedar Valley Makers is inviting Cedar Valley youth to participate in their virtual Cedar Valley Maker Fest! This is a fun and creative opportunity for individual 4-H youth or clubs. The deadline for video entries is March 20th, so do not delay! The Cedar Valley Makers have great resources, tools and equipment to inspire creativity and learning. Interested in finding out more or hosting a guest speaker at your club? Sarah Tanis can help! Contact her at stanis@iastate.edu to get connected.

Be a Hunger Hero! Registration is now open for the World Food Prize Iowa Youth Institute. Students in 8th through 12th grade are eligible to participate in this exciting and impactful event tackling global food security challenges. It takes place virtually on Monday, April 26th. A $500 scholarship to Iowa State University in a number of career paths is automatically awarded to students that meet the participation criteria. Registration and a paper submission are due by March 29th. Find more details here!

Youth in Action! The National 4-H Council has introduced the 2022 application season for the 4-H Youth in Action program. From now through March 29th, youth can share their stories of developing passion, finding purpose, and inspiring others. Four 4-H’ers from across the nation are selected to receive a $5,000 scholarship, a trip to Washington, D.C., and more. Learn about the achievements of last year’s winners, Aidan, Elizabeth, Mayyadah, and Madelyn by visiting the National 4-H website. Applications for the awards are available online. For more information on the program, click here.

Fair on the Radar! Don’t forget that Swine weigh in and tagging takes place on Saturday, April 3rd. It all happens at home! If you need a tagger, please contact or visit the Extension office to pick one up. Please call the Extension office at 319.234.6811 if you have questions or need assistance.

Searching for Something? Visit the Black Hawk County 4-H webpage, find us on Facebook, or call 319.234.6811!
You Are Invited! 4-H’ers in grades 8-12 are invited to Ames for a “Quest to Be Your Best” at the Iowa 4-H Youth Conference and Animal Science Round-Up event! Meet new friends, attend workshops, hear from a keynote speaker, eat in the dining centers, participate in service-learning opportunities and more! Youth conference will look a little different this year, but we’re excited to share this opportunity with you! The dates for this year’s State 4-H Youth Conference are June 29th-July 1st. New for this year, it will be held as a 1-day event each of those three days. Counties are given a designated day in which a limited number of youth can attend. Black Hawk County will be going on July 1st! Plan ahead so that when registration opens on April 1st, you are ready to sign up! Be sure that you watch for more information coming soon on the Black Hawk County 4-H website, Facebook page, 4-H newsletters, and 4-H Family emails!

Omelet Breakfast Reminder. The 2021 Black Hawk County 4-H Omelet Breakfast is not taking place this year due to ongoing COVID-19 precautions. Please note that any purchased Omelet Breakfast tickets that are still in the possession of clubs or individuals will not be honored for the event in 2022. If a ticket holder would like a refund on a purchased ticket, the ticket must be presented along with the refund request at the Extension office by June 1st. After this date, the tickets will be considered a much appreciated donation to the Black Hawk County 4-H program! Please contact Diane Wolfe at wolfejd@iastate.edu with questions.

This is Going to be Fun! We are happy to announce the 2021 4-H Summer Intermediate Adventure Trip, Invest in Our Quest! It takes place on Thursday, June 10th. 4-H’ers in 6th-8th grade can join in the one day adventure to central Iowa, including stops at the 1913 Antique Carousel in Story City, the Boone & Scenic Valley Railroad, the James H. Andrew Railroad Museum & History Center, and the Biotech lab at Iowa State University. 4-H’ers from Black Hawk, Bremer, Buchanan, Butler, Clayton, and Fayette counties are invited. Space is limited. The $100 registration fee is due to the Black Hawk County Extension office by April 30th. Registration forms can be picked up at the office or downloaded here. For details on scholarships to defray registration costs, please call Diane at 319.234.6811.

Answers at your fingertips!
Visit the Black Hawk County 4-H webpage, find us on Facebook, or call 319.234.6811!
More Fair on the Radar! 4-H and FFA members must have their YQCA (Youth for the Quality Care of Animals) certification if they wish to show at the Black Hawk County Fair or Iowa State Fair. Certification is required for beef, bottle calves, dairy cattle, dairy and meat goats, sheep, swine, all rabbits, and poultry. Horses, llamas and pets do not require certification. Online YQCA training is available and due by June 1st each year. The cost is $12, paid online. Log into http://yqca.org/ to get started!

Speaking of Fair...4-H’ers, watch for news on signing up to represent Black Hawk County 4-H in the My Waterloo Days and Sturgis Falls parades this summer! The My Waterloo Days parade will be held on Friday, June 11th at 6:30pm and the Sturgis Falls parade happens at 10am on Saturday, June 26th. Word has it that the clubs with the most participation in each parade could win something delicious! :)

4-H & FFA Show Feed Program Offered. B&B Farm Store in Jesup is offering a new program that allows youth to earn 50 cents back on every bag of feed purchased for their project animals until the end of the Iowa State Fair. Check out their Facebook page for show feed specifics and registration details.

Count Your Clovers! The 2021 4-H’ers for 4-H campaign kicked off on January 31st. The funds raised by 4-H clubs across the state support financial aid for 4-H’ers, State 4-H Conference, county mini-grants, and other projects as voted upon by the State 4-H Council. This year’s goal is $31,000. The campaign runs through June 1, 2021. See this page for more information!

Spring Break To Do List! Not only is it National Read Across America Month, it is also Women’s History Month. Take some family time during the month or over Spring Break to learn about the women from all over the world that have broken gender barriers, created opportunities for positive change, and continue to make a difference every day. Did you know that there is an Iowa Women’s Hall of Fame? Have you heard of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion? Read about this ground-breaking group of women who served in World War II here. If you want to shift your focus to some other topics, check out the Volunteer Center of Cedar Valley’s World’s Greatest Spring Break toolkit! It is a week’s worth of things to do. Let’s hope the weather is nice and the family can do some exploring outside. Grab any kind of camera and start taking photos for the 1st Annual Black Hawk County Conservation Photo Contest! If photography is an interest for your 4-H’ers, they might consider joining Iowa 4-H Camera Corps. It is a great way to practice photography skills and get juror feedback. While you are spending time outside, try visiting some of the interesting bird-watching areas Waterloo and Cedar Falls have to offer. They are both designated Bird Friendly Iowa cities! Information on Waterloo sites and projects can be found here and locations in Cedar Falls can be found in this article. Enjoy!

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: Patti Nie  Club/Location: Big Cedar Springers/Jesup  Years of Service: 3

How long have you been involved with 4-H?
I have been involved as a leader for 3 years.

Have other members of your family participated in 4-H? If so, whom?
My older brother and sister were in 4-H in Butler county.

What motivates you to be a leader?
I feel it is a great organization for the kids and want to see them succeed.

Name some of your favorite club activities. Why are these favorites?
I love the livestock projects. As a small club, we try to be as active in the community as possible.

Please share a memorable story from your experience as a leader/mentor!
I do not have a specific story to share, but it makes me very happy to see the joy and satisfaction on a child’s face after meeting with a judge!

SAVE THE DATE!
THE 2021 BLACK HAWK COUNTY 4-H & FFA FAIR
IS JULY 27TH - 31ST!

As part of its mission to serve all Iowans, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach will provide reasonable accommodations to its “policies, practices, or procedures” when the accommodations are necessary to provide equal access to programming to participants with a qualifying disability. It will also provide auxiliary aids and services when they are necessary to provide equal access to participation.