February 2015

Dear 4-H Families:

As the New Year gets underway and our thoughts are on setting goals for the coming year, I thought it was a perfect opportunity for me to share the goal of the Calhoun County 4H program with you.

It is the goal of the Calhoun County 4-H program to develop the leadership skills of each member which will allow them to achieve their own goals while assisting others in reaching theirs.

This goal is met by valuing integrity, upholding the highest morale standards, and through the adherence of rules. To achieve this goal it is my responsibility to remind both the youth exhibiting at the Calhoun County Expo and their parents of the rules that are in place to ensure that each participant is achieving their highest potential.

As the livestock, communication, and static portions of the fairbook are updated, they will be available on the county 4-H webpage: [www.extension.iastate.edu/calhoun/4h](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/calhoun/4h). It is your responsibility to not only read, but follow these rules.

Further clarification of livestock requirements can be found in the document titled “4H202 Iowa 4-H Livestock Show Requirements”. A hard copy is available at the Extension office or online at: [www.extension.iastate.edu/4hfiles/agriculture/4H202_2013.pdf](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4hfiles/agriculture/4H202_2013.pdf).

Furthermore, when enrolling into the 4-H program, you are prompted to read and sign the “Iowa Code of Ethics” found one the last page of this newsletter or at: [www.extension.iastate.edu/sites/www.extension.iastate.edu/files/audubon/Enthicsform.pdf](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/sites/www.extension.iastate.edu/files/audubon/Enthicsform.pdf).

Since this document is so important, all exhibitors, 4H and FFA, will be required to sign a hard copy of this document prior to fair. Please do not just sign it. Take the time to read it and discuss why each guideline is important and why following them will make your 4-H experience as well as the Expo the best experience for everyone.

It is my hope that each 4-H member will reach this goal of leadership. If you find yourself questioning the application of any of these rules, please contact me at 712-297-8611.

I hope everyone has a great 4-H year!

Jill Mims - County Youth Coordinator
County Council Meeting: County Council will meet on Sunday, February 8, 2015 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at the Extension office in Rockwell City.

We will be doing some leadership activities from the Leadership Retreat that was held in December as well as doing some committee work.

I would like each council member to come with a workshop or activity idea you would like to do. Please have in mind who you will partner with, what materials you would need, who your audience would be, where this would take place, and when.

Tractor and Farm Machinery Certification Course: Iowa State University Extension and Outreach of Pocahontas, Palo Alto, and Calhoun Counties, along with local FFA Chapters and Ag Advisors and in cooperation with area businesses and farmers, will have a certification course March 6 & 7 and March 20 & 21 to certify 14 and 15 year olds for tractor and machinery operation. Youth ages 14 and 15 are required by federal law to complete training and pass an exam before they may be legally employed to do work on a farm other than the one operated by their parents. The course requires 24 hours of instruction and hands-on practice and will be located at the Pocahontas Area Community High School. The course will be completed with a written and practical test of ability to operate a tractor and farm machinery. Successful completion of the required coursework results in certification as specified by the US Department of Labor [Subpart E-1 of 29 CFR, Part 570].

Attendance of all four sessions is MANDATORY!
Session 1: March 6 - 5:00-9:00pm
Session 2: March 7 - 8:00am - 4:30pm
Session 3: March 20 - 5:00-9:00pm
Session 4: March 21-8:00am - 4:30pm

Class size is limited to 25 students. You must mail in your registration to reserve your place in the class. A registration fee of $40.00 needs to be mailed in with registration form. Registration packets are being mailed to each school’s FFA Advisors and can be sent to you at your request. Please call Calhoun County Extension Office at 712-297-8611 to request a registration packet. Make checks payable to ISU Extension. Registration sheet with parent signature needs to be delivered or mailed to Pocahontas County Extension and Outreach (305 North Main Street, Pocahontas, IA 50574) by February 9, 2015.
Swine Weigh-In: Due to the continued concern with the PED virus, we will not be holding a county-wide weigh-in for swine again this year. 4-H and FFA youth will need to contact the ISU Extension and Outreach office no later than May 1, 2015 and request the number of ear tags they will need for market swine.

4-H members will receive instructions on how to go into the 4HOnline program and identify your swine once you have tagged them. You will have until May 15 to tag and identify your animals to be eligible to exhibit at the Calhoun County Expo. Any animal not identified in 4HOnline by the deadline will not be allowed to be exhibited.

FFA members will receive a paper identification form. You will have until May 15 to tag your animals, record them on the form and return the form to the ISU Extension and Outreach office. Forms not in the office by 4:30 p.m. on May 15 will be considered late and those animals will not be allowed to be exhibited.

Complete swine rules can be found in the fairbook at: www.extension.iastate.edu/calhoun/4h. Please note that this year each exhibitor will be required to submit not only a County of Origin Label (COOL) form, but a drug affidavit as well.

Goats Classes: If you plan to exhibit goats at the 2015 Calhoun County Expo, please take a moment to look at the change in fair classes. Classes are now: Dairy Goat Does, Breeding Meat Goat Does, and Market Meat Goats.

At this time, we have added one showmanship class for all age levels. This may be reconsidered if the number of participants grows.

Poultry Classes: If you plan on exhibiting poultry at the 2015 Calhoun County Expo, please take a moment to look at the change in fair classes. Classes are now: Production Pullets (0-18 weeks); Production Layers (18 weeks and older); Ornamental Poultry; Water Fowl; and Broilers (purchased through the Extension office).

At this time there will continue to be two classes of showmanship: Junior and Intermediate/Senior. However, it was decided that even if a youth has received the trophy for Intermediate/Senior Showmanship when an Intermediate (7-8 grade) they may return to the arena as a Senior (9-12 grade).

Fair Entry Fee: As stated earlier in this newsletter, you will want to read the fairbook carefully as there have been several changes. One change is that there will be an entry fee of $1 for ALL classes except showmanship. This will include communications, clothing, and static exhibits.
4-H Experience Agronomy Event: The Iowa State University Agronomy Club is excited to announce a new and educational opportunity for middle school 4-H members grades 4-8 who are interested in agriculture and agronomy. Together with the staff and professors of the Iowa State University Agronomy Department, the club will be hosting a fun-filled interactive day full of demonstrations by world renowned ISU Agronomy faculty and teaching assistants, a career fair with companies in agricultural industries, a lunch, and a raffle. The day will focus on many important areas such as weeds, seeds, crops, weather, and soil. This event will take place on Saturday, April 11, 2015 in Ames at Agronomy Hall.

A parent volunteer is needed to chaperone attendees. If you are interested in attending, please contact the ISU Extension and Outreach office by Friday, February 27. All attendees will receive a t-shirt and lunch.

4-H Photo Camp: 4-H Photo camp is designed to give kids in grade 7-12 the opportunity to learn the basics and techniques of photography, while having a great time! Held in June at the beautiful Iowa 4-H Center near Madrid, campers will learn from qualified professional photographers, and then get the chance to try out their new skills themselves. The three-day event places emphasis on landscapes, close-ups, composition, and people photography, as well as painting with light, and other special effects. Both point & shoot and adjustable SLR camera operation are covered, as well as a complete section on computerized digital photographic enhancement. Iowa 4-H Photo Camp is held June 15, 16 & 17, 2015 and will cost $180 if you register by May 1. For more information or for the registration form go to: www.jholst.net/fourhphotocamp/.

Iowa 4-H Youth Conference: The dates for this year’s Iowa 4-H Youth Conference are June 30-July 2, 2015. The conference will be held on the ISU campus and is open to all Iowa youth who have completed 8th grade. Invite all who “Dare to Dis-cover!”

2015 Roundup Update – Applications are now open!: Check out www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/animalscienceroundup for the online application form. Deadline is March 1. This year, each Roundup species (beef, dairy cattle, horse, sheep, swine) will be limited to 20 applicants per species. Those youth not selected for Roundup are still encouraged to attend the regular State 4-H Conference delegation.

FSQA Training: Calhoun will hold Food Safety Quality Assurance training on June 5 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. at the Calhoun County Extension office. Please plan ahead and if you know you cannot attend on June 5, plan on attending in another county. Call the office at 712-297-8611 for dates in other counties.

Test out for those in grades 7-12 is scheduled for June 8.