January 2015

Dear 4-H Families:

Happy 2015! I am looking forward to all that this new year has to offer.

There is important information and reminders in this newsletter so please take the time to read it and if you have any questions, please contact me at 712-297-8611 or jmims@iastate.edu.

Jill Mims- County Youth Coordinator

2015 State 4-H Recognition Materials: Get involved in State 4-H Council, National 4-H Conference, National 4-H Congress, or receive a State 4-H Project Award by applying by February 1. You can access applications and recognition opportunity information at: www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/page/recognition-opportunities. Applications are due online and the deadline is by midnight on February 1.

2015 State 4-H Scholarship Materials: Are you planning to attend college? Are you looking for scholarships? You can access applications and scholarship opportunity information at www.iowa4hfoundation.org/. The deadline for online applications is midnight on February 1.

Verifying Market Beef: Beef weigh-in took place on Saturday, January 3. After weigh-in, 4-H members who plan to exhibit market beef will need to go into their 4HOnline account and verify that all information has been put into the computer correctly. Although you technically have until February 1 to do this, I would highly suggest that you do this prior to Friday, January 30 so if changes need to be made, they can be. The office is not open on Saturday, January 31.

Verification instructions will be mailed to 4H members along with their identification form after weigh-in or can be found at: www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/page/4honline-information-families-and-leaders. Scroll down and click on “Market Beef Verification Process”.

Breeding Beef Identification: Don’t wait until May 15 to identify your breeding animals. You can go into 4HOnline anytime and put them in. Go to the same link as above: www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/page/4honline-information-families-and-leaders and scroll down and click on “Animal ID On-line”. Instructions on how to add all non-market animals (breeding beef, rabbits, horses, poultry, etc.) are there.

Please call the office if you have any problems identifying your animals. And remember, it is better to identify all your animals, just in case something happens to one and you need to make a substitute.
**4-H and FFA Animal Identification:** To assist with questions about identifying animals for either 4-H or FFA, go to: [www.extension.iastate.edu/4hfiles/agriculture/4h202_2013.pdf](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4hfiles/agriculture/4h202_2013.pdf)

One big change that was not well communicated last year is that youth may identify and exhibit different animals in the same division in both FFA and 4-H. For example: Johnny has market beef animals tagged A, B, C, and D. He can identify A and B as 4-H market animals and identify C and D as FFA market animals. He can then exhibit those animals in the market beef classes for 4-H and FFA at the Iowa State Fair. The key is that Johnny must decide at weigh-in which animals are for his 4-H project and which are for his FFA project and those animals must be correctly identified and DNA, retinal images, etc. taken at weigh-in. He will not be allowed to change his mind and switch animals after weigh-in.

What this means is that youth will have to tell staff if they intend to show an animal under FFA or 4-H. If they plan on showing some animals under 4-H and others under FFA, they will need to have 2 separate forms, one for each organization. Animals will not be allowed to be switched once they have been identified.

If you have any questions, please ask them before the day of weigh-in.

**Intermediate Trip to Des Moines:** 4-H members in grades 6-8 are invited to participate in the Intermediate Trip to Des Moines in which we will pack “Meals for the Heartland” then attend an Iowa Wild hockey game, followed by some fun at Fort Frenzy. Participants will join other 4H members from Emmet, Palo Alto, and Pocahontas counties.

To register, complete the enclosed form and return it to the Extension office by Friday, January 16. The cost will be $75 and space is limited so register early.

**Iowa 4-H Youth Conference 2015- Dare to Discover:** The date and the theme for the 2015 Iowa 4-H Youth Conference have been set and we hope that you start sharing those details with all who are eligible to attend. The dates for this year’s event 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 Discover! More information will be coming soon.

**Important Registration Changes to Roundup:** Some really big changes are happening for this year’s Animal Science Roundup held in conjunction with the annual State 4-H Conference on June 30 – July 2. This year, each Roundup species (beef, dairy cattle, horse, sheep, swine) will be limited to the first 20 applicants for each species. Applications for youth will be posted by January and due around March 1. Those youth not selected for Roundup will still be encouraged to attend the regular State 4-H Conference delegation as there are some ag-related workshops for that as well. Stay tuned for more details, application forms, etc. coming soon!
2015 State Volunteer Retreat Feb. 6-7, 2015: Anyone interested in learning more about 4-H is invited to attend the State Volunteer Retreat in Ames on February 6-7. Register now to get your choice of workshops! Online registration and workshop descriptions are now posted at www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/page/state-volunteer-retreat

The annual State Volunteer Retreat brings together 4-H volunteers, staff, parents, and intermediate and senior 4-H members to network and learn about innovative programs that will help bring fresh perspectives and activities to Iowa 4-H programs. Friday evening, February 6, features hands on activities and ideas. Saturday, February 7, is filled with a variety of workshops and networking opportunities. Workshops are presented by ISU faculty and staff and volunteers. The wide variety of workshop sessions will meet the needs of both new and experienced volunteers, staff, and 4-H members. Registration is FREE this year and limited to the first 100 people who register. Registration is filling up fast so don’t delay! Registration deadline is January 23.

Check out the workshop descriptions www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/page/state-volunteer-retreat

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 1, 2015.