March 2015

Dear 4-H Families:

I can’t believe spring is almost here. That means we need to be focusing on getting livestock identified and getting communication presentations and clothing exhibits in order.

Make sure you are reading the newsletter as this is the first place you will hear about changes and how to handle them. Many changes will not be hard, they will just be different. You may find things in the newsletter repetitive but we need to make sure everyone knows about the changes so everyone has a great 4-H year.

Sincerely,

Jill Mims- County Youth Coordinator

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.

Sheep Weigh-In: Sheep weigh-in for the Calhoun County Expo and Iowa State Fair is scheduled for Saturday, April 18, from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at the fairgrounds in Rockwell City. The cost for ear tags will be $1.25 each.
Exhibitors may weigh in as many as 10 lambs for the market classes and exhibit a maximum of 8 at the Calhoun County Expo. They may weigh an additional 8 lambs for the pick-up load class and exhibit a maximum of 1 pick-up load with 4 sheep in it. Breeding sheep do not have to be weighed but must be identified in 4H Online by May 15.

Exhibitors are limited to nominating 30 lambs for the Iowa State Fair. Retinal images will be done and the cost will be $5 per head. All animals; breeding, commercial, or market, nominated for the Iowa State Fair need to have retinal imaging done. Please plan to bring all State Fair animals to weigh-in on April 18.

If you have questions, please contact Jill Mims at the ISU Extension and Outreach- Calhoun County office at 712-297-8611.

**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).

**Broiler Chickens:** 4-H members who wish to participate in the broiler pen portion of the poultry show need to order their chicks by April 30, 2015. All market broilers for this class must be ordered through the Extension office. They will be shipped to Webb’s Feed, Inc. in Rockwell City around May 19. 4-H members will receive a minimum of 25 birds and will be allowed to exhibit one pen consisting of 5 birds.

To order your chicks, please fill out the order form that is included in this newsletter and return it to the ISU Extension and Outreach- Calhoun County office no later than 4:30 p.m. on April 30.

**Communication and Clothing Judging:** Judging for Extemporaneous Speaking, Educational Presentation, Working Exhibit, Share the Fun, Pride of Iowa, Fashion Revue, Clothing Selection, and $15 Challenge will be on Saturday, May 2 at the South Central Calhoun Elementary School in Rockwell City. Rules for these events are included in this newsletter and are available on-line at: [www.extension.iastate.edu/calhoun/4h](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/calhoun/4h)
To register, please fill out the registration form in the newsletter or at the link above and return it along with the $1.00 per class fee to the Extension office by Monday, April 13 at 4:30 p.m. After all entries are submitted, a schedule will be compiled and sent to participants.

**Discontinued Classes:** Due to low participation and in an attempt to align with the Iowa State Fair, we will no longer offer Bucket of Flowers, Food Challenge, Photo Challenge, or Ball Canning classes.

**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/](http://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 Discover!”

**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. Here is a list of trainings being held in other counties:

- Carroll: Saturday, March 7 from 1-3 p.m.
- Webster: Friday, April 3 from 9:30-11:30 a.m.
  - Monday, April 6 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- Pocahontas: Thursday, June 4 from 8-10 a.m.

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

**Save the Date for STEM Camps:** If you are just completing grades 3-5 and have an interest in technology, save July 13, 14, and 15 for Robotics camp. And if you are completing grades 5-7 and have an interest in science, save July 27, 28, and 29 for Mad Scientist camp. Camps will be held 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. daily at the Woodlawn Christian Church in Lake City. Continue to watch the newsletter as more details on both of these camps will be available later this spring.