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Record Keeping Tip of the Month
Are you looking for new ideas to enhance your project experience and incorporate Citizenship, Communication, and Leadership activities into your project? Check out the Sample Ideas for Communication, Citizenship, and Leadership Activities at www.extension.iastate.edu/cass/page/4-h-record-keeping-information. The opportunities are endless for project activities. Don’t forget to record the activities you did in your project area for your record book!

Adventure Winter Day Camp — March 12
Who: Youth from grades 3-5 in Cass County
What: A free day camp where youth will learn all about winter survival & adventure, enjoy a snack, and participate in fun activities.
When: March 12 9 AM-4:30 PM at the Cass County Community Center
This camp will be offered free of charge, with pre-registration required. Snack is provided. Please bring a sack lunch and clothes for playing outside.
The deadline to register is March 5. Register by calling or e-mailing the Extension Office. Any youth not in 4-H are required to have a medical information release form. The form can be found by visiting: www.extension.iastate.edu/cass and checking the Quick Links.

4-H Mardi Gras
4-H Mardi Gras is scheduled for March 15, 2015 from 2-4 PM at the Cass County Community Center. Each club who wishes to participate must submit their club activity to the Extension Office by March 4. Don’t forget to be creative with your Mardi Gras game or activity! Please remember, everyone who attends Mardi Gras must pay 50 cents at the door. Tickets are 10 cents each. Please encourage all your friends and family to attend. This event raises some money for each club and is also a great low-cost opportunity for families to have fun and support 4-H.

Endowment Pancake Supper
Who: Anyone who loves pancakes or 4-H or both
What: The annual Endowment Pancake Supper to support 4-H
When: March 26, 2015 from 5-7:30 PM
Where: Cass County Community Center
The money raised at the Endowment Pancake Supper is used to offset the Program Development Fee charged to all 4-H’ers across the state. If we did not have this Endowment in addition to the support from the Cass County Extension Council, 4-H would cost $30 for every member in Cass County each year. Clubs will be asked to work shifts, as well as donate an item(s) for the silent auction. Also, if you know of any business that is willing to donate to the silent auction, please encourage them to do so! The cost is $6 per person to enjoy pancakes. Children 6 and under can eat for $4.
Please encourage friends, family members and neighbors to come out on March 26 to support the Cass County 4-H Program!
Club Officer Training—March 23 @ 6:30 PM

Club Officer Training is rescheduled for March 23 at 6:30 PM at the Cass County Community Center. This will be a great opportunity for all club officers and leaders in Cass County to gather, share ideas, develop leadership skills and learn about being an officer. This year we will focus on duties as a club officer and how to effectively run a meeting. If you are a club leader or officer, plan to attend this training.

Annual Volunteer Training

Join 4-H leaders from across Cass County in an interactive, hands on training that will help volunteers create a fun, safe, inclusive environment for all youth. “Belonging” is identified as a basic 4-H youth need and supportive, caring adults guide youth in creating an environment that is welcoming and engaging for all.

During this training, 4-H leaders will learn how to guide youth in developing a list of club or group expectations that accommodates all members, learn how to support youth with special needs, and discover resources to help them in their role as caring adults. In addition, volunteers will learn new activities to take back their clubs and groups to foster positive behavior and belonging.

This training will meet your requirement for your annual volunteer training and is part of the statewide leader training and will be held on March 3 at 6:30 PM at the Cass County Community Center.

A benefit of participating in the face-to-face volunteer training is the interaction and sharing with other volunteers. If you are not able to attend the training, contact the Extension office to learn more about participating through other training options.

4-Hers for 4-H

Looking for a way to give back to the 4-H program and impact not only Cass County 4-H members, but others from across Iowa? The annual 4-Hers for 4-H campaign is now underway through June 1. The 2014-2015 State 4-H Council members are asking each 4-H club in Iowa to donate a minimum of $3.00 per member to the 4-Hers for 4-H campaign. All clubs that meet the $3.00 per member goal will receive a special campaign certificate at County Convention. The top contributing counties and regions will be formally recognized at the 2015 State 4-H Youth Conference in June. Participation is easy! Fill out the campaign form and return it along with your donation to the Extension Office by May 15. Contact the Extension Office for the campaign donation form.

While you are planning to participate in 4-Hers for 4-H, don’t forget to donate to the Cass County 4-H Endowment! Funds in the Cass County 4-H Endowment directly affect youth in Cass County to cover program fees, scholarships and leadership opportunities.

Graduating Senior Scholarships

Attention 4-H Seniors! The Cass County Endowment Committee is offering four, $1,000 scholarships to graduating seniors. If you have been involved in 4-H for at least five years and are planning to pursue a level of higher education, this scholarship is for you! Applications are due to the Extension Office by April 1. Contact the Cass County Extension office for more information and to receive the scholarship application.
4-H Weekend in Kansas City

Enjoy a weekend in Kansas City seeing the sights and meeting others from Southwest Iowa! 7th & 8th grade 4-Hers, mark your calendars for April 17-19 to attend the 4-H Weekend in Kansas City. Visit the Kansas City Royals Hall of Fame, Science City Planetarium, attend Royal vs. A’s Baseball game, visit the National WWI Museum and much more! Cost to attend is $175 plus few meals. The Cass County 4-H Endowment offers scholarships for youth attending out of county events. Contact the Extension Office for registration & scholarship information. 7th & 8th grade 4-Hers mark your calendars and register to attend this opportunity!

5th & 6th Grade 4-H Camp at the Iowa 4-H Center-June 7-10

Take a ride on the "WILD" side and mark on your calendars to attend Area 4-H 5th & 6th Grade Junior Camp June 7-10 at the Iowa 4-H Camping Center near Madrid, Iowa. Experience the adventure and excitement of four days filled with 4-H camp traditions including nature hikes, creek stomping, wall climbing, canoeing and campfires! Learn to create cool crafts that work great as 4-H working exhibits. Bring a friend with you or make new ones! Camp will run from Sunday, June 7 at 3 PM. until our closing ceremony starting at noon on Wednesday, June 10.

4-H camps are open to ALL YOUTH – membership in a 4-H club is not a requirement – so bring a friend to share the experience! Area 4-H Junior camp is open to all Region 12, 17 & 18 youth who have completed grades 5 and 6. The camp will be filled at 80 youth, so you will want to register early before it fills up. Registration Information and Medical/Health Forms are available from the county extension office or the Harrison County Extension Website. Registration Deadline is May 23. The Cass County Endowment provides scholarships for youth to attend out of county camps, contact the Extension Office for more information on the camp scholarship. Please contact David Seilstad, phone: 712-644-2105 or email: seilstad@iastate.edu if you have any questions about this camp.

2015 FSQA Information

New for 2015! All Cass County swine, beef, sheep, dairy (both dairy cattle and dairy goat), meat goat, rabbit and poultry exhibitors are required to be FSQA certified, this includes all market & breeding animals. Please note: This is a change from previous years.

There are 2 more opportunities FSQA Training/Testing this year, March 17 at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds, or April 13 at the Cass County Community Center. Test out will be from 5-5:45 PM and FSQA Training will begin at 6 PM.

We will also be holding an Animal Science Day Camp for youth in grades 4-8 on May 31 at 3 PM which will also cover 1 year of FSQA Certification. No testing will be given at the Animal Science Daycamp.

Training/testing is based on grade, youth in grades 4-6 must attend an approved FSQA training each year. Youth in grades 7-9 will have the option of attending a training every year or completing a test which will certify them until they reach the 10th grade. Youth in grades 10-12 will have the option of attending the training every year, or completing a test which will certify them until they turn 20 years old. If youth have not participated in FSQA Training in the past, they are encouraged to go through FSQA Training before they test. Parents are also welcome & encouraged to participate in FSQA Training to help reinforce the principles at home.
2015 Swine Weigh-in
Who: All Cass County Fair Swine Exhibitors for 2015
When: April 11 from 8-11 AM; all families who are in line by 11 AM will be allowed to weigh-in
Where: Cass County Fairgrounds; all exhibitors that wish to bring swine to the Cass County Fair for 2015 must weigh-in at this date and location.
Cost: Eartags are $1/head. State Fair Swine tags are $8/head. Please stop by the Extension Office before weigh-in to purchase 4-H tags. Please bring pigs already tagged and eat notched.

There is an 80lb maximum weight. No offsite weighing will be allowed. Please wear clean clothes & footwear to weigh-in. If you have any questions about weigh-in procedures, please contact the Extension Office or Swine Superintendent, Stacie Euken.

Sheep & Goat Weigh-in
Sheep & Meat Goat weigh-in will be May 2 at the Cass County Fairgrounds. Sheep weigh-in is scheduled from 8-10:30 AM for county fair only sheep. Ear tags are $1 per tag. You must be in line by 10:30 AM to make the weigh-in. State Fair retinal imaging for sheep is 10:30 AM-11:30 AM on the same day. The cost to nominate sheep for State Fair is $5 per head.
State Fair retinal imaging for meat goats runs from 12:30-1 PM. The fee is also $5/head. County fair meat goat weigh-in time is from 12:30-1:30 PM. Ear tags for county level meat goats are $1/head. Dairy Goat check-in will be from 1:30-2 PM.
All sheep and goats are required to attend weigh-in on May 2.
Following weigh-in, Extension staff will input your data in 4H Online. Please log in to 4-H Online before May 15 to verify your information is correct.

Share-A-Kid Program
The Iowa Dairy Goat Association is providing a great opportunity for Iowa 4-H members to get started in the dairy goat project. The Share-A-Kid Program provides the opportunity for youth, ages 10 to 17 and residents of the state of Iowa, to own a registered dairy goat kid. Applicants submit essays and other supportive material to win a doeling. Doelings are donated by IDGA members and a selection committee determines the winners. Winners are expected to display their goat at a county fair or youth show, to keep in touch with the donor, and to submit an article about their doeling to the IDGA newsletter. Applications are due by April 1. Please contact the Extension Office for more information on the IDGA Share-A-Kid program.

Southwest Iowa 4-H Poultry Workshop
Attend Southwest Iowa 4-H Poultry Project workshop on April 11, from 9-11 AM at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds, Gold Building, 1809 South 4th Street, Red Oak. Topics that will be covered are:
-How to Select your birds for your purpose
-Raising Chickens, Ducks, and Geese
-Biosecurity—protecting your flock including signs and sickness of birds
-Showmanship & Bird Anatomy

Please register to attend by Monday, April 6 to the Montgomery County Extension Office
Email: jodsmith@iastate.edu or call the Montgomery County Extension Office, 712-623-2592.
Spring 2015 DuPont Pioneer Seed Grants

Does your club have a great idea for improving your community but you’re still looking for ways to fund the project? Well the DuPont Pioneer Seed Grant is just what you are looking for! DuPont Pioneer has announced they would like to invest in the community service efforts of Iowa 4-H members by providing clubs with grant money for service projects. Please visit www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/pioneergrants for more information and how to apply. Please send application and support materials to the Extension office by March 15. We hope you take this opportunity to better our local communities!

Cass County Master Gardeners Grant

The Cass County Master Gardeners group is offering grant money to be used in the 2015 growing season, to encourage gardening to grow food and/or beautify local communities. Any Cass County not-for-profit group or individual may apply. Schools, churches, libraries, 4-H clubs, Scouts, and individuals working to improving their communities can use the money to begin or improve gardens or landscaping, or to provide education for their members or the public. Each grant has a maximum value of $300. The application must also include plans for teamwork and sustainability. Consideration for the environment is also an important selection factor. Applications must be received, by mail or email, by Monday, March 30 for consideration. Grant recipients will be informed of their selection by the end of April. For more information, or with questions, contact Kate at the Extension office or email keolson@iastate.edu, or find the application on the Cass County Extension website.