Does your schedule seem to be bursting at the seams? I know mine does! If you haven’t taken the time to sit down and talk about your 4-H goals and priorities (as a family and individually) maybe now’s the time. This newsletter is full of dates for workshops, trainings, events, and camps. Not many of us can do it all, but you should definitely think about what interests you, what is most important to you and try to take advantage of every opportunity that you can!

Also, if you have an interest and can’t seem to find any information on that area, please reach out to me. I’ll do my best to help you out and steer you in the right direction. There are many opportunities statewide and a lot of information available if you know where to look.

As always, if you have any questions don’t hesitate to contact me. I’ll be happy to help you find the information that you are looking for!
**VISUAL ARTS PAINTING WORKSHOP**

All Cedar County 4-H members are invited to attend this fun workshop with Christine Boeve of Creative Spirits in Tipton. The workshop will be held February 13, 6-8pm at Christine’s studio (118 E 5th St. Tipton). Registration fee is $15 and it is due February 6th. Enrollment is limited to the first 24 members with forms and payment completed.

**NEW MEMBER NIGHT**

On February 22nd from 5-6:30pm all new 4-H members and their parent(s) or guardian(s) are invited to the Extension Office to learn some of the basics on Cedar County 4-H to help them survive and thrive in their first year! Some of the topics we’ll cover include: project areas, goals, exhibits, 4honline, Cedar County Fair, and record books. Bring your questions if you have some and we’ll tackle those too!

**EASTERN IOWA 4-H PROJECT WORKSHOP**

Mark your calendars now for the first ever Eastern Iowa 4-H Project Workshop on April 25, 2015 from 9am-2:30pm at North Scott High School. All junior and intermediate 4-H members, parents, and 4-H volunteers are invited to attend. Prepare to be inspired and explore all 4-H has to offer. You will hear from John Robinson, nationally renowned inspirational speaker on how to take advantage of all you can, how to be a leader, a contributing citizen and see the value we all hold inside ourselves (www.ourability.com). Explore project areas in Healthy Living, STEM, Arts/Communications, and Leadership/Citizenship. Meet other 4-Hers from around the state and make new friends. Adults can network, share and learn about 4-H resources. Watch for more information and registration details coming very soon!

**FOOD SAFETY QUALITY ASSURANCE**

Dates have been set for Cedar County FSQA training and testing for 2015. All sessions will be held at the Cedar County Extension Office and all testing and training must be completed prior to May 15th for youth to participate in the 2015 fair.

**Test Sessions**

February 11, 4-6pm  March 12, 4-6pm

If these dates do not work for you, please contact the office to set up a time to test. The scheduled test session times are come and go as you complete your test (you do not stay the entire 2 hours).

**Training Sessions**

January 31, 1-3pm  April 29, 5:30-7pm

May 9, 1-2:30pm

All youth who will be exhibiting animals at the Cedar County or State Fair must either attend a session or test out of FSQA.

If you are in grades 4-6, you must attend FSQA training

If you are in grades 7-9, you may either attend training yearly or take the intermediate test. Testing out will make you FSQA certified until you are in the 10th grade. The intermediate test consists of 20 multiple choice and true/false questions. You must have 70% correct to pass.

If you are in grades 10-12, you may either attend training yearly or take the intermediate test. Testing out will make you FSQA certified until you are 20 years of age. The senior test consists of 30 multiple choice and true/false questions. You must have 70% correct to pass.

**Note:** You can check out your FSQA status in 4hOnline. It will show under your individual record as to when your training or test expires. If you have questions, please contact me at the Extension Office.

**CEDAR COUNTY FAIR**

**JULY 8—12, 2015**

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**4-H PLEDGE**

I PLEDGE MY HEAD TO CLEARER THINKING, MY HEART TO GREATER LOYALTY, MY HANDS TO LARGER SERVICE, AND MY HEALTH TO BETTER LIVING, FOR MY CLUB, MY COMMUNITY, MY COUNTRY, AND MY WORLD.
PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES AROUND THE STATE

4-H’ers are invited to participate in IACEC Legislative Day on February 25th. The day will start at the Wallace Building (just northwest of the Capitol in Des Moines). Participants will be briefed on the issues important to ISU Extension & Outreach and will be coached on how to talk with their legislators about the issues. Following the brief training, the group will proceed to the Capitol to visit with their legislators. Please contact the office by February 13th if you are interested in attending and we’ll try to coordinate a group trip!

Do you enjoy fashion, like to shop, or love looking for a “deal”? Then check out this workshop! Region 10 is hosting a $15 Challenge Workshop on Saturday, March 14 from 9am-2pm in Cedar Rapids. Registration fee is $15 (due by March 2) and includes a tour and presentation by Plato’s Closet staff, shopping (at your own expense) at Plato’s Closet, Goodwill, and Stuff Etc., lunch, workshop materials on Elements of Design and Art Principles, and a showcase of everyone’s bargains revealed! Find the registration form on our website.

Iowa State University’s Agronomy Club is hosting an “I’m A (Future) Agronomist” workshop on April 11 from 9am-1:15pm in Ames. All 4-H’ers grades 4-8 are invited to attend. Cost is $5 and includes a meal and t-shirt, registration is due March 1. It will be an interactive day full of learning about different aspects of agronomy including weeds, seeds, plants, and industry. Let the office know if you plan to attend and we can try to help facilitate car pooling! Find the registration form on our website.

Theisen’s is offering a free poultry workshop near you! A representative from Cargill Animal Nutrition will be giving a presentation covering these topics: Getting Started with Poultry, Brooder to Flock, Meatbirds, and Summer Care. Refreshments and give-aways will be provided! Workshops near us are on 2/2 at 5:30pm in Theisen’s of Coralville and 2/3 at 5:30pm in Theisen’s of Cedar Rapids (1800 51st St. NE).

4-H ANIMAL SCIENCE ROUND-UP

June 30-July 2 are the dates for the 4-H Animal Science Round-Up this year. Members in grades 8-12 are invited to apply. More information and registration can be found here: http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/animalscienceroundup

CEDAR COUNTY 4-H ENDOWMENT

The Cedar County Extension Council is now accepting requests by 4-H members, clubs, and county groups for grants from the Cedar County 4-H Endowment fund. The funding request form can be found on our website and they are due by the 3rd Wednesday of February, May, August and November to the Extension Office. Examples of requests could be (but are not limited to): funding for a club project for the community or funds to assist attending National Convention. There is a maximum of $200 per request. A committee will review all requests and council will select and approve which requests to grant. Also, if you or someone you know would like to donate to the 4-H Endowment Fund please contact the office.

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THE 4-H MOTTO
TO MAKE THE BEST BETTER

Iowa State University Extension Programs are available to all without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, or disability
Calling all 4-H Members, Families, Volunteers and Supporters. Eastern Iowa is hosting the Iowa 4-H Foundation GALA Saturday Feb. 28th at the Marriott Hotel in Cedar Rapids. Cedar County 4-H has the potential to benefit from the proceeds. 4-H members can donate an item/4-H project, for the silent auction. 50% of the proceeds will go back to their club or county endowment determined by the 4-H member. You can buy a ticket or find friends and be a table sponsor! Anyone can volunteer to help the night of the event, they need volunteers to help set up the silent auction, registration and the dessert auction. For more information www.iowa4hfoundation.org/gala. Note, if offering as a sponsor for a Table, Print, Clover, Hospitality, Event or as Presenting sponsor, your county may be eligible for a percentage of the proceeds.

COMMUNITY SERVICE
Anikah Boettcher, a member of the Harmony Hustlers is holding a book drive for the University of Iowa Children’s Hospital. She is collecting books over the next 4 weeks for kids ages 0-17 in new or gently used condition. In addition, one dollar is being donated for each book collected by Log Chain Express Trucking for an electronics purchase for the children. If you’d like to make a donation please drop your books off at the Extension office by March 1st. Thank you so much for your support!

FSA LOANS
Did you know that youth loans are available from the FSA for livestock projects? For more information call our Cedar County FSA office at 563-886-6061 or check out this website: http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=fmlp&topic=ryl

COUNTY WIDE LOCK-IN
A big thank you to all of the 4-H members and their guests for attending the Cedar County Lock-In. And extra special thanks to all of the adult volunteers and County Council members who were a part of the lock-in. This is one of the most anticipated annual events in Cedar County and it is made possible thru all of your efforts!

LEADER TRAINING
Thank you to all the leaders who attended the leader training session on January 20th. By attending this meeting you met the required training for volunteers for the 2014-15 4-H year. If you were unable to attend the training you will be receiving a packet in the mail with online training instructions. Please call the office if you have questions.

SHARE THE FUN
Thank you to Haley Hansen, Aubrie Pruess, and Taylor Miller of the Harmony Hustlers and to Jesse & Kelley Lieser, Cody Bohlmann, Sara Webb and Grace Nichols of the Center Ring Leaders for participating in Share the Fun at the lock-in.

LIKE OUR FACEBOOK PAGE
A Cedar County 4-H Facebook Page has been launched! Find, like, & share us at: http://www.facebook.com/CedarCounty 4H

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OUR VISION
A WORLD IN WHICH YOUTH AND ADULTS LEARN, GROW, AND WORK TOGETHER AS CATALYSTS FOR POSITIVE CHANGE
The purpose of the CCYC is to develop and implement a balanced 4-H youth program for Cedar County that supports the mission of the Iowa 4-H Youth Development Program. The CCYC works to meet the developmental and educational needs of youth and is responsible for program integrity. Program quality includes assurance that the 4 Basic Needs of youth are met through 4-H programming incorporating the Essential Elements.

CCYC Members
Kari Barker Brad Chapman
Jurgen Ehler Mike Fitzgerald
Amy Glick Scot Harold
Ann Mente Lisa Rock
Ann Mente Lisa Rock
Deb Storjohann Deb Wenndt

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