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Notes from Jennifer

- Thank you to all the families who helped donate cookies, money, their time, and items to the Clarke County Fair Soup Supper. This donations will be used to put on different events at the fair and to help with the cost of awards. 4-Hers received a huge compliment from a fairboard member in another county for their great work ethic, patients, and help throughout the event. Way to go Clarke 4-Hers!!!

- I have attached an important document that each 4-H family should take the time to read. Clarke County has always had a 4-H Policy and our 4-H and Youth Committee has recently reviewed it and made any appropriate changes.

- As you have seen in the past couple newsletters I have been talking about this exciting Robotics club we have started. The dates are officially set and I have also attached the flyer. We hope to see you at the first meeting!

- Your Invited! The Volunteer Center of Center Iowa is thanking the people of Clarke County for their volunteering efforts. Whether it’s through 4-H, a church, local organization, youth or adult your ALL invited to have a wonderful breakfast. Be sure to stop by and grab a bite on your way to work or school. Please see attachment for the details. It does ask to RSVP by March 8th so if you would contact the Extension Office by noon on March 8th that would be great. We are always looking for ways to thank our volunteers and this is another great way to share our appreciation.
Animal Participants– May 15th Deadline

Do you plan to show any beef, sheep, goats, swine, horses, pets, rabbits, chickens, or dogs at the Clarke County Fair? If so, these animals MUST be identified in 4-H online by May 15th at 11:59 p.m. This is a state deadline, and no late entries are accepted. If you are showing any market animals, those animals will be identified at their specified weigh-in. All other animals must be completely identified in 4-H online on your own time. Please do not wait until the last minute as this is still a fairly new process.

If you decide not to bring an animal you identified, you will not get penalized, it just gives me a better idea of what's coming to the fair.

Please note, this is a requirement for all 4-Hers and Clover Kids.

Food Safety Quality Assurance (FSQA)

FSQA is required for all 4-H/FFA members who plan to show beef, swine, sheep, dairy (both cattle and goat) meat goats, rabbits, and poultry.

If you are in grades 4th through 6th you are required to attend the training each year. If you are in grades 7th through 9th, you have the option of attending a training or taking the intermediate test.

If you are in grades 10th through 12th, you also have the option of attending a training or taking the senior test.

If you are an Intermediate or Senior and wish to complete the test, it is good for 3 years. The tests are available at the Extension Office and must be completed before June 28th.

Please call or e-mail Jennifer ahead of time to make sure I am available to give the test that particular day. Test must be completed before July 1st.

Since each 4-H member is different, your FSQA status by logging into 4-H online and looking under your name. It will show a small picture and will say “Quality Assurance” and what training or test you took and when it expires.

Iowa State Fair Swine Changes

In the past, those who have showed swine at the Iowa State Fair have had to attend a separate weigh-in. This is know longer the case; swine going to the Iowa State Fair will now have DNA tags placed in their ear during our regular county weigh-in (April 6th) or identification date (May 11th). The cost for this is $8 per hog. You may also go to the following website to learn about more changes coming to the 2013 Iowa State Fair Swine Show.

Please visit- http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/projects/swine

MISSION STATEMENT

4-H EMPOWERS YOUTH TO REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL WORKING AND LEARNING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CARING ADULTS
Dog Obedience Classes

Classes have already started, but you can still participate. Each class will take place in the building right beside the Osceola Vet Clinic. This building does not have heat so please dress appropriately. Beginners will meet from 4-5 p.m., intermediate from 5-6 p.m. and seniors from 6-7 p.m.

What you MUST bring to your first class:
Flat collar, 6 ft. leash, and proof of your dog’s current vaccines. If you do not have these papers you will at the first class, you will be asked to leave. This is for the safety of our 4-Hers, families, our volunteers, and the other dogs.
If you have any questions please call Ronda at 641-447-2346 or Nancy at 641-313-6738.

Sheep Project Workshops

Darwin Downing is offering multiple free project workshops for those who are interested in learning more or plan to show sheep.

He will also hold a hands-on workshop at his house on Saturday, June 8th from 9 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided, and make sure to bring your sheep. His home address is 2379 Doyle St. Osceola, and located right off Hwy. 69. If you need directions or more information please contact Darwin at 641-342-3582.

The following workshop dates will be held in the small meeting room at the Clarke County Fairgrounds at 7:00 p.m. each time.

- March 19th
- April 9th
- May 14th
- June 8th—at Darwin’s home
- June 25th

Remember: these workshops do not count as a club meeting.

Want to show Swine at the County Fair?

Over the years, Swine Graphics has given 4-H'ers the opportunity to show swine during the fair using their starter program. Swine Graphics is once again offering this option to 4-H’ers.

Swine Graphics will deliver the hogs to weigh-in and the 4-Her must take them home that day. Hogs do not have to be paid for until after county fair once you receive your premium money. Those who have utilized the program two years or less will pay $30 per hog. Those who have utilized the program 3+ years will pay $45 per hog. Contracts may be picked up at the Extension Office and must be signed, dated, and returned to the Extension Office by March 8th.

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.
Refrigerator Reference

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

FSQA Intermediate and Senior Training:
March 5th at 3:30 p.m. in the Osceola Ag Room

FSQA Intermediate and Senior Training:
March 6th at 12:45 p.m. in the Murray Ag Room

Sheep Workshop:
March 19th 7 p.m. at the fairgrounds

FSQA Junior Training:
March 21st from 6-7 p.m. at the fairgrounds

Swine Weigh-In:
Saturday, April 6th from 9–noon at the fairgrounds

FSQA Junior Training:
April 8th from 6-7 p.m. at the fairgrounds

Sheep Workshop:
April 9th 7 p.m. at the fairgrounds

FSQA Junior Training:
April 24th from 6-7 p.m. at the fairgrounds

Sheep & Goat Weigh In and Swine ID:
May 11th from 9– noon at the fairgrounds

Sheep Workshop:
May 14th 7 p.m. at the fairgrounds

ALL animals must be identified in 4-H online
By May 15th at 11:59 p.m.

Sheep Workshop:
June 8th 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Darwin's home

Sheep Workshop:
June 25th 7 p.m. at the fairgrounds

2013 Clarke County Fair
“Unmask Your Opportunities”:
July 17th– 22nd

2013 Iowa State Fair:
August 8th– 18th

A Best Kept Secret

The Clarke County Old Iron organization has Machinery Restoration Grant’s that are available to anyone who is 25 years old and younger.

Old Iron has established these grants up to $500.00 to be used towards the historical preservation and documentation of antique machinery.

This would be great for anyone who is interested in doing this type of project for the fair. Take advantage of this great local opportunity! There is a simple grant application which can be picked up at the Extension Office.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?
FIND US AT: EXTENSION.IASTATE.EDU/CLARKE