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Spring Is On Its Way!

Yes, in less than two months spring will officially be here. Time to be planning and start working on those Fair projects. It is never too early. The county fair is only 5 1/2 months away.

Watch this newsletter for details. Mark important dates on the calendar. Make sure your enrollment /re-enrollment is completed. Take a look at your chosen project areas of interest and make plans to weigh-in and identify any market livestock (swine, sheep, goats) yet to be weighed-in (April 21) and any non-market livestock before May 1. Plan to take FSQA or YQCA Training as needed.

While inside on these mid-winter days, gather ideas for your 4-H Building project exhibits and start work on them. Good luck with your winter 4-H club activities and projects and lets all look forward to spring!

Yours in 4-H,

Jack
Kala

Please Get Enrollment/Re-enrollment Up-To-Date
Before we can mark you as a 4-H member in good standing your 4-H on-line account must be up-to-date and enrollment fees paid. To be eligible for 4-H activities or events, including County Fair you need to be a current active member with your enrollment fees paid by May 1. This is true, even if the club pays your share of the $20 enrollment fee. If you wish to apply for some financial assistance, you also need to let us know. Application for 4-H Foundation financial assistance for enrollment fees can be found at: https://www.iowa4hfoundation.org/en/funding_opportunities/iowa_4h_program_fee_assistance/
**LOCAL 4-H NEWS**

**Market Swine, Sheep, and Goat Weigh-in is April 21**

Market Swine, Sheep and Meat Goat weigh-in and identification will be held **Saturday, April 21st, 8:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m.** at the Jim Scott Pavilion at the Fair grounds in Leon.

All market sheep and goats must be weighed in. The Fair Board is still yet to decide if swine weigh-in will be optional this year. If it is and you opt not to weigh-in your swine, they will not be eligible for rate-of-gain and you will need to tag and photo I.D. your animals for 4-H Online. Stay tuned for this decision. In addition, all 4-H market swine to be nominated for State Fair must have a DNA punch tag applied.

(Cost $8/head) All market sheep and goats that are to be candidates for State Fair must also be retinal imaged (also $8/head). These animals will also be candidates for AK-SAR-BEN at no extra fee.

In addition, for **State Fair eligibility, any breeding ewes or breeding meat goats (pure bred or commercial) must also have retinal images.**

Ewes or meat goat does which are weighed and tagged are considered identified as market or breeding and can show either way at county fair but not both. You must confirm animals ID’d in 4honline by May 1.

**Livestock ID’s Due May 1**

All animals you plan to show at the 2018 Decatur County Fair must be ID’d in 4honline by May 1. **You must be listed as ACTIVE in 4honline to sign in and ID.** If you are listed as PENDING, you may need to update your information or pay your enrollment fees. If you are listed as INCOMPLETE, you need to sign back in, complete the step by step enrollment process and choose SUBMIT at the end. If you are listed as INACTIVE, you need to use your account sign-in information and complete the enrollment process. If you are a 4-Her who also shows FFA, you must ID 4-H livestock in 4honline. These animals cannot be entered in FFA. Do not enter any FFA in 4honline either.

**NOTE: Market Beef—you must be active in 4H Online by Feb. 15.**

**UPDATED 4-H 202 AVAILABLE ONLINE**

**4H 202 Livestock Identification & Show Requirements -- Revised for 2018**

The revised 4H 202 document is available in the Extension Store. To access this document, use the permanent link: [https://store.extension.iastate.edu/product/194](https://store.extension.iastate.edu/product/194)

This is THE publication 4-H livestock families need to know about and have in hand!

**FSQA and YQCA Training Options**

FSQA Training is an option for the final year. Beginning in 2019, the new **YQCA** (Youth Quality Care of Animals) will replace FSQA as the required training. Either FSQA or YQCA is required for exhibitors of all species of meat and dairy livestock—market or breeding— including rabbits and poultry to be eligible to show those animals at the Decatur County or Iowa State Fair. **YQCA is available online for anyone who does not attend an FSQA session.** Those Intermediates and Seniors who have previously tested out or who test out this year will be certified to the end of their respective certification periods. (Seniors will be done. Intermediates until the spring they are age 15).

**FSQA training schedule:** (All TENTATIVELY at the 4-H Building unless water leak is not fixed)

- **Juniors (grades 4-6):** 7-9 pm—Please sign up for one of these sessions by March 9.
  - March 21, or March 26
- **Intermediates (grades 7-9); Seniors (grades 10-12):**
  - Review/Test Sessions—Rev. 6:30 pm/Test 7:30 pm
  - March 15 or March 29

Area FSQA Training Sessions are planned for Southwestern Community College, Creston April 4, 5:30-7:30 pm and April 7, 9:30-11:00 am. (For all ages)

YQCA-Go online at [www.yqca.org](http://www.yqca.org). Cost is $12. The Face-to-Face meeting option is $3, but we will not be conducting any live meeting sessions in Decatur County this year.

**MISSION STATEMENT**

4-H EMPOWERS YOUTH TO REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL THROUGH YOUTH-ADULT PARTNERSHIPS AND RESEARCH-BASED EXPERIENCES.
Leader Information

Report Club Activities
It is very important to report any fundraisers, field trips or special club recreational activities, to the Extension Office well ahead of the planned activity, a few weeks in advance if possible. This allows us to help advertise your event to others in the county (if it is an invitational event) and also to check if there are some possible restrictions or additional requirements for the event or activity, such as insurance or waivers. If there is any question at all about a planned event or activity, do not hesitate to contact the Extension office.

Club Leader Annual Training
All county 4-H leaders who did not attend our training session in November will receive a letter about their options for completing this required annual training. The session is now available on-line. Instructions will also be in the letter. This year’s training entitled “4-H Builds Resilience” is via 4-H Online. At the completion of online training you will click to receive a certificate which verifies you completed the training, which must be completed no later than July 1, 2018 for you to remain an approved volunteer.

County Wide Events and Activities

New Clover Kids Classes at the Fair this Year
Classes for Clover Kids have been added for Rabbits, Pets, Dogs, Poultry and Bucket/Bottle animals. These are non-competitive classes judged separately from the regular classes and just as with static exhibits in the building will all receive a gold participation ribbon. These animals must be identified in 4-H Online as well as checked in at the fair at the same time as all other animals of the same species due to state health rules.

Dog Obedience Sessions Begin March 1
Katie Fuller, dog project leader has announced that Dog Obedience project meeting sessions will start March 1, 6:00 p.m. at the 4-H Building. Please do not bring your dogs to this first session. However, you do need to bring your current dog records. You can follow Katie Fuller on Face Book for posts regarding dog project activities.

Other Youth Opportunities

WANTED: Camp Counselors for CAMP WILD 2018
Decatur County is seeking camp counselors for Camp Wild 2018. Camp will be held at Camp Clover Woods near Madrid, Iowa June 11-13, 2018. Counselors will arrive on June 10 to prepare for campers’ arrival.

Applicants must be age 16 by June 11, 2018. Applications are due to Decatur County Extension Office by Monday, April 2nd 2018. Applicants selected to serve will be notified by Monday, April 9. There is no cost for counselors to attend camp. Counselors are required to attend two camp orientation and training meetings. The dates will be Wednesday, April 25th from 5:30-8 pm (web-based training) and Wednesday, May 23rd from 5:30-8 pm (face-to-face in Harrison County). Counselors will need to be available for CAMP WILD Sunday, June 10 until Wednesday, June 13, 2018 at Camp Clover Woods near Madrid, Iowa.

See the following article (on the next page) for more information about Camp Wild.

Questions about this opportunity or need Counselor Application forms? Contact the Extension Office.

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.
Save the Date: CAMP WILD June 11-13, 2018

Take a ride on the "WILD" side and mark your calendars to attend Camp Wild, June 11-13, 2018 at Camp Clover Woods near Madrid, Iowa. Camp Wild is offered for youth completing grades 5, 6, and 7 in Fall 2018.

Experience adventure and excitement during three days filled with 4-H camp traditions and favorite activities, including nature hikes, challenge course, creek walk, rock wall, archery, swimming, camp songs, crafts, and campfires. Bring a friend with you, and make new ones while you are there too!

Camp will run from Monday, June 11 at 11 a.m. until our closing ceremony, starting at 3:15 p.m. on Wednesday, June 13. Registration will open online March 1st. Instructions will coming on how to register.

Registration Deadline will be May 15, 2018. Register before May 1, 2018 to secure your spot, and receive our $200 registration early bird price. Registration costs $220 after May 1 and before May 15. No registrations will be accepted after May 15, 2018.

The County Extension Office will reimburse 4-H members up to $50 of the camp fee upon verification of attendance.

Scholarships are also available from the Iowa 4-H Foundation, with an April 25th deadline for application. Visit www.iowa4hfoundation.com for information or to apply.

SESS News

As of the last registration list posting there were 166 youth from 22 counties across the state participating in the Winter SESS Postal Match. Of these, 13 youth are members of the Decatur County Young Guns club. They are Kurios Austin, Lorenzo Austin III, Brogan Bundt, Ethan Bundt, Leighanna Bundt, Clayton Barr, Grant Goering, Mackenzie Howard, Lane Moore, Arian-na Nopolous, Courtney Olsen, Clayton Smith, and Dylan Stanfill.

At Right: (L-R) Coach Roy Silhanek, Mackenzie Howard, Grant Goering, and Clayton Smith. (Lane Moore-Not pictured). They will represent us and Iowa at the National 4-H SESS Championship July 24-29, 2018 in Grand Island, NE.

Other 4-H Events Around Iowa

State 4-H Camping Opportunities

2018 Calendar and Information for special-themed 4-H Camps to be offered this summer at the Clover Woods Camp and elsewhere may be found at: www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/content/2017-state-4-h-camp-information. Links are there for online registration.

Camps will include Shooting Sports Camp– June 8-11; STEM Survival Camp–June 17-20; Global Citizenship Camp–June 29-July 1; Design Dimensions Camp–July 8-13. There is also a link on the page for 4-H Foundation Assistance for camp registration fees and military family discounts.

Iowa 4-H Foundation Scholarships

The 2018 list of scholarships, eligibility, helpful hints, instructions, and applications are available online at:

https://www.iowa4hfoundation.org/en/funding_for_4hers/scholarships/

Online deadline is 11:50 PM, February 1, 2018. Contact Mary Clancy, 712-830-1321 for additional information.
## Quick Reference Calendar

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>FEBRUARY</th>
<th>MARCH</th>
<th>APRIL-AND LATER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 1-4-H Recognition Applications due (online)</td>
<td>March 4-LeRoy MerryMakers 4-H Club meeting-4 pm</td>
<td>April 1- LeRoy MerryMakers 4-H Club meeting-4 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 1- 4-H Scholarship Applications due (online)</td>
<td>March 4- Decatur Co. Achievers Club Meeting-2:30 pm-4H Bldg</td>
<td>April 1- Decatur Co. Achievers Club Meeting-2:30 pm-4H Bldg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 4- Dec. Co. Achievers club mtg. 2:30 pm-4-H Bldg.</td>
<td>March 6-Young Guns Cub Meeting-Fairgrounds-6:30 pm</td>
<td>April 3- Young Guns Cub Meeting-Fairgrounds-6:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 4- LeRoy MerryMakers 4-H Club meeting-4 pm</td>
<td>March 14- Lamoni Livewires 4-H Club Meeting</td>
<td>April 4- FSQA Training-All ages at SWCC, Creston 5:30-7:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 6- Young Guns SESS 4-H Club Meeting-Fairgrounds-6:30 pm</td>
<td>March 11- Bloomington Rustlers 4-H Club Meeting</td>
<td>April 7- FSQA Training-All ages at SWCC, Creston 9:30-11:30 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 11-Bloomington Rustlers 4-H Club Meeting</td>
<td>March 11- Wranglers 4-H Club Meeting-7 pm</td>
<td>April 8- Bloomington Rustlers 4-H Club Meeting-1 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 11-Wranglers 4-H Club Meeting-7 pm</td>
<td>March 12- Decatur County Dynamites 4-H Club Meeting</td>
<td>April 8- Wranglers 4-H Club Meeting-7 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 12- Extension Council Meeting-5 pm-Ext. Office</td>
<td>March 12- Extension Council meeting-5:30 pm-Extension Office</td>
<td>April 9- Decatur County Dynamites 4-H Club Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 12-Decatur County Dynamites 4-H Club Meeting</td>
<td>March 15- Int/Sr FSQA Review and test session-4H Bldg-6:30</td>
<td>April 9- Extension Council meeting-5:30 pm-Extension Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 14- Lamoni Livewires 4-H Club Meeting</td>
<td>March 18- Decatur Co. Boosters 4-H Club Meeting</td>
<td>April 12- Lamoni Livewires 4-H Club Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 19- Fair Board Meeting-7 pm-4-H Building</td>
<td>March 19- Fair Board Meeting-6:30 pm-4-H Building</td>
<td>April 15- Decatur Co. Boosters 4-H Club Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 18-Decatur County Boosters 4-H Club Meeting</td>
<td>March 19- Southern Trailblazers 4-H Club Meeting-6:30 pm</td>
<td>April 16- Southern Trailblazers 4-H Club Meeting-6:30 pm</td>
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<td>Feb. 19-Southern Trailblazers 4-H Club Meeting-6:30 pm</td>
<td>March 21- Jr. FSQA Training-7:9 pm-4H Bldg.</td>
<td>April 16- Fair Board Meeting-6:30 pm-4-H Building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 29-Int/Sr FSQA Review and test-4H Bldg-6:30 pm</td>
<td>May 1- All Livestock ID’s DUE; Enrollment fees must be paid to be eligible to show at fair</td>
<td><strong>July 18-23, 2018-Decatur County Fair</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>August 9-19, 2018-Iowa – State Fair</td>
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