Dear 4-H families and friends,

What did your parents think of when they heard 4-H? Probably cooking & critters. What do you think of now? How about LEGO robotics competitions, shooting archery, air rifle, and shotgun, meeting lifelong friends, planning events for peers, and trips across the country. 4-H offers many opportunities for young people to gain life skills such as: being effective leaders, mastering time management, serving as productive citizens, communicating with finesse, setting and reaching goals, and advancing knowledge in your project area of choice. In 2014 what are you going to learn in 4-H?

Our 4-H F.I.R.S.T LEGO League teams competed in regionals on Saturday, December 7th and did a fantastic job! Each team won an award at the end of day. Two teams are automatically advancing to state, more may be accepted. The teams have been working hard since August to build and program their robots, research and create a solution to the Nature’s Fury challenge, prepare a presentation, work well as a team, and be gracious professionals. Behind the scenes our coaches volunteer hundreds of hours to help the clubs prepare for competition. THANK YOU COACHES!!

Over 50 4-Hers were honored at our 4-H Awards program on November 10th. Around 150 attendees enjoyed a meal donated by the Hancock County Pork Producers and our four community clubs. Thanks to those of you who made and donated cakes and those who bid on our silent cake auction. We raised $80 for Global Compassion Network. The County 4-H Council worked hard to make the awards program and meal a great success.

Being a 4-Her can have big rewards. Check out the scholarships and trips across our country that are available for high school 4-Hers. You can win $100 for the work you have done in your project area. You can join 4-Hers across the country for a week in our nation’s capitol.

May you all have a Merry Christmas and Happy 2014,
# 4-H Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December 12th</td>
<td>Britt &amp; Garner After School Kids Club (Monday - GH, Tuesday - WH)</td>
<td>GH South Elem. lunchroom</td>
<td>6:30-8:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 14th</td>
<td>Concord Challengers</td>
<td>Summit House</td>
<td>11:15 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 15th</td>
<td>Orthel Jolly Workers mtg.</td>
<td>Forest City Superbowl</td>
<td>2:30-4:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 24th</td>
<td>Christmas Eve</td>
<td></td>
<td>Office Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 25th</td>
<td>Christmas</td>
<td></td>
<td>Office Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 1st</td>
<td>New Year’s Day</td>
<td></td>
<td>Office Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 3rd</td>
<td>Junior 4-H fun night</td>
<td>Forest City YMCA</td>
<td>9:00 pm - midnight</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 4th</td>
<td>FTC 4-H Team practice scrimmage</td>
<td>Extension Office</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 4th</td>
<td>Orthel Jolly Workers mtg.</td>
<td>Market 124, Mason City</td>
<td>10:00 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 5th</td>
<td>Shooting Sports - air rifle</td>
<td>UniCover</td>
<td>3:00-5:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 11th</td>
<td>FTC Qualifying Tournament</td>
<td>Sergeant Buffs, IA</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>January 13th</td>
<td>Elcon Indians mtg.</td>
<td>Extension Office</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 18th</td>
<td>JrFL State Tournament</td>
<td>Iowa State University</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>January 18th</td>
<td>Garner Clover Kids</td>
<td>Extension Office</td>
<td>9:00-10:30 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 19th</td>
<td>Senior County Council mtg.</td>
<td>Extension Office</td>
<td>2:00-3:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 19th</td>
<td>Shooting Sports - archery</td>
<td>Britt Nazarene church</td>
<td>3:00-5:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 23rd</td>
<td>Britt Clover Kids</td>
<td>Britt Elementary</td>
<td>3:30-5:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 25th</td>
<td>FTC Qualifying Tournament</td>
<td>Cedar Falls, IA</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 27th</td>
<td>First GH ASK 4-H mtg. - 2nd semester</td>
<td>Garner Elementary</td>
<td>3:30-5:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 28th</td>
<td>First WH ASK 4-H mtg. - 2nd semester</td>
<td>Britt Elementary</td>
<td>3:15-5:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 1</td>
<td>Market Beef weights &amp; id due</td>
<td>Online</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 22-28</td>
<td>Hancock County District Fair</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 8-18</td>
<td>Hancock County District Fair</td>
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**Junior 4-H Fun Night**

All 4th-6th graders are welcome to join us at the Forest City YMCA from 9:00 pm to midnight on Friday, January 3rd, 2014. Celebrate 2014 4-H style with swimming, pizza, games, and more. 4-Hers can attend for only $5. Non 4-H members are welcome to sign up for $10.

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Registration forms are available at the Hancock County Extension Office at 327 W 8th Street, Garner or by calling 641-923-2856. Please sign up by Friday, December 20th.
Huge Success for Hancock County LEGO Teams!

Hancock County 4-H LEGO teams made a positive impression at the Iowa FIRST LEGO League Regional qualifying match in Cedar Falls on Saturday December 7th. Four of the 36 competing teams were from Hancock County. Our 4-H LEGO teams built and programmed robots to complete tasks and created a solution to the Nature’s Fury Challenge. They are judged in four categories:

- Missions - what the robots have been programmed to do
- Project - presentation of their solution to the Nature’s Fury challenge
- Technical - programming and structure of the robot
- Core Values - how they work together & with other teams (they are judged even during practice and lunch.)

Hancock teams won 5 awards at the end of the day.
FIRE - Championship award for 1st place overall
ICE - 1st place mission completion with a score of 315 & State Qualifier
Flip the Switch - 1st place in Core Values
L.A.B. - Honorable mention in Project Award
Awards Program

The 4-H Awards Program was held on Sunday, November 10th, 2014 to honor and celebrate the accomplishments of our local 4-H members. Over fifty 4-Hers received bronze, silver, or gold recognition for the hard work they put in through numerous project areas.

In addition to the project records, competitive 4-H awards are judged based on their citizenship, leadership, and character. Winners for these awards have done an excellent job showcasing the amazing things they have done in each award category.

These winners are:
- Intermediate Leadership - Jade Pringnitz
- Junior Leadership - Jace Pringnitz
- Junior Citizenship - Maddie Graham & Rachael Hanson
- Philip Sweers Character in Service - Abigail Wirtjes & Jade Pringnitz
- Wendy Greiman Achievement - Jace Pringnitz, Kim Dornbier, Kevin Tlach, & Maddie Tusha
- Mitchell & Ida Mae Bock Memorial Scholarship - Jared Wellik

The Awards Program also recognized the following outstanding 4-H volunteers this year: Randy Hiscocks; for his commitment and hard work to make the fair a success, Brett Formanek; for all his labor to prepare the fairgrounds, and Michelle Dornbier for 5 years of service as a 4-H club leader.

In addition to the awards portion of the ceremony nearly 150 4-H family members enjoyed a meal provided by the Hancock County Pork Producers and our four community 4-H clubs. A cake decorating contest and silent auction highlighted talents of Kenzie Erdahl, Alexis Wirtz, Lauren Wirtz, & Reagan Wirtz. The cakes raised $80 for Global Compassion Network. The awards program was a great success.

4-H SHOOTING SPORTS

Bulls-Eye Bunch starts Archery

We are coming up on our two year anniversary of the start of The Bulls-Eye Bunch, Hancock County’s 4-H Shooting Sports club. They are excited to have a 2014 kick-off party on Sunday, January 5th from 3:00-5:00pm at UniCover in Britt. The kick-off party will include a parent informational meeting for new members or potential new members, a safety training for new members, snacks and goodies, the opportunity to shoot targets with an air rifle, and dates and locations of upcoming club events such as archery shooting and field trips.

The Bulls-Eye Bunch currently has the capabilities to teach air rifle, shotgun, and archery to 4-H members. Anyone who is at least nine years old and in 4th grade can participate in air rifle and archery. Youth must be 11 to participate in shotgun.

Anyone interested in joining the Bulls-Eye Bunch should attend the kick-off on Sunday, January 5th with a parent. If you can’t attend on January 5th but would still be interested in joining please contact Victoria Schmidt at vschmidt@iasate.edu or 641-923-2856.

The Bulls-Eye Bunch is looking forward to starting to compete in air-rifle and doing wildlife related activities this spring.

First Archery Shoot
Sunday, January 19th
3:00-5:00 pm
Britt Nazarene Church

A WORLD IN WHICH YOUTH AND ADULTS LEARN, GROW, AND WORK TOGETHER AS CATALYSTS FOR POSITIVE CHANGE
Project Area Updates

PROJECT AWARD BARS

Many of you received a lot of project award bars at the 4-H awards program. If your plaque is full of your great 4-H accomplishments you can order a new plaque.

Plaque orders are being accepted until December 31st. Please send your order and money to the Extension office. Checks can be made to Hancock County Extension.

$10 - Plaque with a header plate that has your name, 4-H Clover and Hancock County. (please include name to be put on plaque in your order.)

$7 - Plaque with no header.

IDEAS FOR YOUR PROJECT

Do you want to try to show a pig this year? Or maybe sew a pillowcase or bake a cake but you have no idea how to get started.

The state 4-H page has project hot-sheets for each of the 41 4-H project areas. You get tips, how to lists, ideas for fair, and learn what judges are looking for.

Visit the webpage, www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/ and hover over “4-H projects” in the middle. This will give you the list of 4-H project areas. You can click on an area that interests you and start learning today.

Expand your horizons, try something new. You might discover a new passion.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Did you know that Citizenship, Communication, Leadership, and Self-Determined are all project areas in 4-H?

Almost all of you are probably doing something that would fit these project categories. Are you helping lead, determine, or execute a service project? That’s citizenship! Are you doing presentations for your club? That’s Communication! Do you hold an office, help others, or be a role model for a younger 4-H? That’s Leadership! Cool huh?

You can sign up for these project areas if you are interested in awards or keeping records about these activities.

RE-ENROLL TO RECEIVE INFORMATION

This newsletter is the last piece of mailing you will receive if you have not re-enrolled in 4-H. On January 1st, 2014 anyone who has not gone on to 4-H Online or turned in paper enrollment copies at the Extension Office, will no longer receive correspondence.

If you wish to stay in 4-H and have not completed your re-enrollment contact Victoria immediately at 641-923-2856 or vschmidt@iastate.edu. After January 1st re-enrollment for past 4-Hers will cost $10 and you will likely start missing information about deadlines and upcoming events.

New 4-H members can join anytime. If you are transitioning from a Clover Kids club please contact Victoria to make sure we have all paperwork completed.

BEEF

The 2014 North Central Iowa Youth Beef Conference will be held on Saturday, January 25th from 9:30 am - 2:30 pm. At the Ellsworth Community College Agriculture & Renewable Energy Center.

There is no cost to attend, lunch is provided, and parents are welcome to stay.

Topics this year include: What are antibiotics and why do we use them? What happens to my calf after I’ve sold it? Why does it matter if our cattle are stressed? And, what’s the difference between ribeye steak and flank steak?

Pre-register by January 17 by contacting Victoria at 641-923-2856 or vschmidt@iastate.edu.

The Beef Checkoff Program is mandatory and requires that any time there is a change of ownership of a bovine animal, $1-per-head must be remitted to the Iowa Beef Industry Council. The beef checkoff applies to ALL bovine animals, including but not limited to, breeding stock, dairy animals and club calves (including new 4-H projects). These dollars fund Beef It’s What’s For Dinner promotions.

If you have any additional questions or would like more information about the Beef Checkoff Program, please contact the Iowa Beef Industry Council at 515-296-2305, beef@iabeef.org, or at www.iabeef.org. Please send all investments directly to: Iowa Beef Industry Council, PO Box 451, Ames, IA 50010.
Exclusively for High School 4-Hers!!

STATE LEVEL RECOGNITION

Compete for Award Trips or Project Recognition

High school aged 4-Hers have many opportunities for them beyond the county level. Take advantage of the opportunity to learn how to teach leadership and team building skills, spend a week in our nation’s capitol, plan a conference just for your peers, or get recognized for the work you have done in your project area.

- National 4-H Conference - Trip to Washington D.C.
- Nation 4-H Congress - Trip to Atlanta, GA
- State 4-H Council - Plan Iowa’s 4-H Conference
- State Project Awards - Be recognized for your accomplishments in your project area.

Pre-recorded interviews are accepted for schedule conflicts.

Your written application is due February 1st to the State 4-H office. More information can be found at [www.iowa4hfoundation.org/](http://www.iowa4hfoundation.org/) by searching for “youth recognition opportunities”.

“There are opportunities are SUPER FUN and I would recommend all high school 4-Hers take advantage of them. I have met tons of new great friends! It has been a very cool experience, don’t pass it up!”

~Ashley Smeby, past Hancock 4-Her

MONEY FOR COLLEGE

Nearly 75 4-H Scholarships Available

The Iowa 4-H Foundation announces the 2014 scholarship programs for 4-H’ers attending or planning to attend college fall 2014. Yep, even current college students are eligible for 4-H scholarships. Currently 69 scholarship programs totaling over $60,000 will be awarded to 4-Hers across the state.

The various awards range in amounts from $500 to $3,500. Some of the scholarships are open to students pursuing any field of study, while others are open to students pursuing degrees in agriculture, food and nutrition, ag business, animal science, and journalism.

Former Iowa 4-H’ers and current 4-H’ers graduating from high school are eligible applicants.

When asked about her scholarship experience a past Hancock county 4-H says, “Applying for a State Level 4-H scholarship is a very extensive process. A bonus of the 4-H scholarship is the information I provided made me eligible for numerous different scholarships, all different amounts. I was notified I was going to be receiving the Pioneer Scholarship and was asked to attend the ceremony one of the days at the Iowa State Fair on the stage in the 4-H building. It was the toughest scholarship I applied for but in the end one of the most rewarding ones I received.”

Scholarships are available for Iowa State University, University of Iowa, and University of Northern Iowa as well as Iowa’s private colleges and community colleges. 4-H Scholarship information, can be sorted by school or degree) forms, and applications are available on the 4-H web page: [www.iowa4hfoundation.org/scholarships](http://www.iowa4hfoundation.org/scholarships)

Applications must be submitted online no later than 11:59 pm February 1, 2014 for consideration.

MISSION STATEMENT

4-H EMPOWERS YOUTH TO REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL WORKING

AND LEARNING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CARING ADULTS
I SUPPORT 4-H FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

Include 4-H in Year-end Giving

Don’t forget to secure tax deductions for charitable gifts. Generally, you can deduct the full amount of monetary gifts donated to charity if you itemize your tax return. Gifts by mail must be postmarked no later than December 31 and credit card contributions must be charged by midnight (CST) on December 31.

Landowner farmers should consider gifting grain instead of cash for more tax benefits. Donations of appreciated stock or real estate are some other alternatives to cash. Because everyone’s tax situation is different, always consult with your tax adviser before making year-end charitable decisions.

To find out more information about donating to the Iowa 4-H program visit this website, www.iowa4hfoundation.org/waystogive. To donate to the Hancock County 4-H program contact the Extension office at 641-923-2856.

HIGHLIGHTING TECHNOLOGY IN A FILM

White House Student Film Festival

Something big is happening today, and you don’t have to be a kid to be excited about it. We’re launching our first-ever White House Student Film Festival -- and we’re inviting K-12 students from around the country to create and submit one-to-three-minute short web videos. Finalists could have their videos screened at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave, and posted on the White House website. It might just be cooler than having your homework up on the fridge.

The topic: Highlighting the importance of technology in the classroom -- and imagining how technology will change the educational experience for kids in the future.

Interested, or know someone who would be? Here are more important details you should know:

- Every student entry has to have a parent/guardian or teacher sponsor.
- Films can be submitted now through January 29th, 2014.
- If your video is selected as an official selection, you could have a chance to attend the mid-February screening at the White House.

Read the complete rules (and submit your video!) here: http://www.whitehouse.gov/filmfestival.

COOL 4-H STUFF

4-H Merchandise for Christmas Ideas

Are you in need of an idea for the 4-Her, 4-H alum, or 4-H volunteer in your life? Perfect ideas can be found at the website listed below!

National 4-H store: 4-hmall.org

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.
4-H FAMILY NEWSLETTER

December 2013 - January 2014

Imagine a world of 4-H where you have something to say and grownups listen to you. Pretty cool.

HANCOCK COUNTY EXTENSION
327 WEST 8th STREET
GARNER, IA  50438