Dear 4-H families and friends,

What is your favorite memory of exploring something in 4-H? My favorite exploration memory so far is touring the squirrel cage jail and spending the night sleeping under the fish on our Omaha overnight trip. I am very excited to announce our Exploration Tickets to Success Challenge. Attend Exploration Workshops & Tours where you can learn about interesting topics, gather ideas and exhibits for the fair, and maybe even find a career you might be interested in learning more about. Be sure to check out Exploration Workshop insert in this newsletter to learn more about the ticket collection contest and our first Exploration Workshop - Creative Spirits Painting on March 18th. What new exploration memory can you create in 4-H?

If you ask any of the 4-H LEGO club members I guess they would be able to share multiple fond memories with you. Our first year high school team, The BLOCK HEADS will be competing at state on Feb 21-22. FIRE and ICE just finished competing at state and each won an award. Our JrFLL club for Clover Kid 4-H members (K-3rd grade) won the Simply Awesome Machine Award at state. Hancock County 4-H LEGO clubs are known throughout the state and beyond. Read the articles for more information about our 4-H LEGO clubs and how you can get started this summer by coming to robotics camp.

If you plan to show livestock this year make sure you meet the requirements for the Food Safety Quality Assurance (FSQA) testing. Read inside to find out what you need to do. Any livestock exhibitors who are not FSQA certified by July 1st. All livestock exhibitors must be FSQA certified. Two trainings are being offered this spring in Hancock County.

You may notice this newsletter has a few special inserts. We want to make sure you don’t miss out on these great opportunities. NIACC continuing education is offering MULTIPLE FSQA trainings. NIACC borrowers (Grades 10-12th current) MUST attend one annual training. Intermediate 4-Hers (Grades 7-9th currently) can attend annual training or test once for duration of intermediate level. Senior 4-Hers (Grades 10-12th currently) can attend annual training or test once for duration of Senior level.

All 4-H (4th-12th grade) exhibitors who plan to show beef (including bucket/bottle calf), sheep, swine, dairy, rabbit, poultry, or goats at County or State Fair MUST be FSQA certified. Two trainings are being offered this spring in Hancock County.

Junior 4-Hers (4th-grade currently): MUST attend one annual training. Intermediate 4-Hers (Grades 7-9th currently): Can attend annual training or test once for duration of intermediate level.

Senior 4-Hers (Grades 10-12th currently): Can attend annual training or test once for duration of Senior level.

Victoria’s office hours
Monday, Wednesday, Friday
12:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Thursday
10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

WHAT'S INSIDE:
Victoria’s office hours
H Calendar
4-H Calendar
FSQA Certification
FIRST LEGO League - Camps & State Competition
FIRST Tech Challenge - On to State
Storm Chasers - Jr. LEGO Club
Livestock Identification
Project Updates
Horse Expo in Minnesota
Swine Tagging & Derby weigh-in
Websites
“COOL” Livestock Requirements
Bucket Bottle Calf

Special Announcement inserts:
• Creative Spirit Painting - 1st Exploration Workshop
• Junior 4-H Fun Night - rescheduled
• NIACC Food & Nutrition classes

FSQA REQUIREMENTS AND TRAINING DATES

FSQA Certification - Livestock Exhibitors

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FSQA is very important to ensure that the products 4-Hers produce are safe for food consumption. FSQA certification reassures packers that 4-H animals are safe to purchase. It only takes one person to not follow the rules and cause big problems for 4-H livestock shows.

FSQA training is very important to ensure that you know the rules. Anyone eligible to take the test can visit the office anytime during Victoria’s office hours (see front page). You have 3 tries to pass the test in one sitting. Log-in to 4-H Online to see when your certification expires.

All livestock exhibitors must be certified by July 1st.
**FLL: STATE Results & Summer Camp**

Each year Hancock County 4-H has more participation in FIRST LEGO League. This year 36 young people were members of one of the four FLL 4-H teams in Hancock County. People from across the state and beyond know about Hancock County 4-H's FLL program!!

Here are the results from our two teams who advanced to state competition this year. Team FIRE: Won first for Overall Project Award Team ICE: Won first for the Innovative Solution Award and were third in total mission points. There were 71 team competing.

This summer is your opportunity to get involved in our FLL program. Our annual Hancock County 4-H robotics camp will be June 9-12, 12:30-4:00pm at the Garner Ed Center. Space is limited to 18 participants who can be ages 8-13. Please contact Carol Opp at carolopp@iastate.edu or 641-923-2856 if you are interested in attending the robotics camp or if you would like more information about joining a FLL team. Remember, adult coaches are always needed for teams.

**The BLOCK HEADS - Advance to State Competition**

Seven years ago Hancock County 4-H started a FIRST LEGO League (FLL) team for members ages 9-14, but they did not compete. Andrew Dornbier was a member of the first competitive FLL team and when he aged out of that group this past year he was not ready to give up doing robotics. He recruited high school members for a FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) 4-H Robotics team. Andrew also talked to get Stellar Industries and they agreed to help provide financing and an engineer to mentor the group.

FTC requires teams to be responsible for designing, building, and programming their robots to compete in an alliance format against other teams. The challenge is different every year and for this year it was the Block Party where teams need to put blocks in designated areas and then place the robot on the ramp or hang from the rod in a period of 2 ½ minutes. The top scoring teams advance to the final matches to see who the winning alliance will be out of the teams competing. Teams also need to keep track of their progress in an engineering notebook.

The FTC 4-H Club, The Block Heads, went to Sgt. Bluffs to compete in a qualifying tournament on Saturday, Jan. 11. They were a finalist in the Rockwell Collins Innovate Award and finished fourth out of 24 teams. The Block Heads did not advance, but did a great job for their first ever competition.

January 24 The Block Heads FTC 4-H Club traveled to Cedar Falls to compete in their second qualifying tournament. They won the Connect Award which goes the team that is most connected with their local community. The team was also a finalist in the Think Award which is based on how well their engineering notebook reflects their FTC journey.

After the qualifying rounds, the Block Heads were in second place. When the final matches were over they came out first and were awarded a berth at the State FTC Tournament as the winning alliance.

We wish them luck as they compete at State on Feb. 21-22

**Storm Chasers - JrFLL 4-H present at State**

Storm Chasers, the JrFLL 4-H Clover Kids Club, worked on the challenge of Disaster Blaster in order to prepare for their State presentation on January 18 at ISU. They had to pick one natural disaster and do a Show Me poster and a LEGO model that included moving parts. Members chose a tsunami and built the model to show the before, during, and after effects of the storm. They received the Simply Awesome Machine Award at State.

Preparing for state taught them a lot about working together as a team as well as learning more about what natural disasters were and how they affect us.

**DEADLINES AND PAPERWORK - CLARIFIED**

**Critter Check-list for fair exhibition**

There is a reason for everything, even some of the strange requirements we have to be able to show your critter at the fair. All deadlines and paperwork are defined and explained right here.

Animals you wish to exhibit at fair must be identified and entered in the fair class - two separate things. Identifying your animal means that your animal is a 4-H project. You are taking care of it and preparing to show that animal. Identifying animals make them eligible to show at fair but does not enter them in any fair classes. The identification deadline on most critters is May 15th. There are a few exceptions: market cattle is Feb.1st because they take longer to grow, poultry, pets, and rabbits is June 15th because they might not be born yet on May 15th.

You must also make an entry for a class at fair. The fairbook will be available after March 1st to help you pick which class you need to enter. Class entries can be based on age of your animal, weight of your animal, your age, your expertise, or your animals expertise depending on the type of animal you are showing. All fair entries should be made prior to July 1st. After July 1st late county fair entries are subject to a $25 fee.

Any critters that you are thinking about showing at the Iowa State Fair MUST complete the ID process and the entry process through 4-H online.

County fair entries are encouraged to identify animals through 4-H online, fair entries are accepted as paper copies into the Hancock County Extension Office.

For step-by-step instructions on how to identify your critters online visit this website, www.extension.iastate.edu/hancock/news/4-h-online-manage-everything-4-h.

**ID Deadlines:**

- Market Beef (also weighed-in): Feb. 1st
- Derby Swine (also weighed-in): April 5-12
- Breeding Beef, Market Swine, Sheep, Goats, Dairy Cattle, Horse & Dog: May 15th
- Poultry, Rabbits, Cats, & Pets - June 15th

**Fair Entry deadline:** July 1st

**WANT TO KNOW MORE? FIND US AT:** extension.iastate.edu/hancock/4h

**MISSION STATEMENT**

4-H EMPowers YOUTH TO REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL WORKING AND LEARNING IN Partnership WITH Caring adults

**HIGH SCHOOL ROBOTICS ON TO STATE**

Storm Chasers are just finishing up their year; many thanks to Eric & Amanda Williams for coaching the group. JrFLL 4-H will start up again this fall with the challenge theme "Think Tank, Redefining Learning".

If you want to build working LEGO models with motors and work with a team to create a presentation poster be sure to ask about joining a JrFLL 4-H team. Team members must be 6-9 years old, and teams can be up to 6 members. We are happy to support multiple JrFLL 4-H clubs, but each team will need a parent mentor. For more information about JrFLL please contact Carol Opp at carolopp@iastate.edu or 641-923-2856.

**Think Tank**

- High School robotics are on to state
- JrFLL 4-H present at state
- Storm Chasers are just finishing up their year; many thanks to Eric and Amanda Williams for coaching the group. JrFLL 4-H will start up again this fall with the challenge theme "Think Tank, Redefining Learning".
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**VACATION FROM PARENTS WITH 4-HERS ACROSS IOWA**

- Find us at: extension.iastate.edu/hancock/4h
- Mission statement: 4-H empowers youth to reach their full potential working and learning in partnership with caring adults

**DEADLINES AND PAPERWORK - CLARIFIED**

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- There is a reason for everything, even some of the strange requirements we have to be able to show your critter at the fair. All deadlines and paperwork are defined and explained right here.
- Animals you wish to exhibit at fair must be identified and entered in the fair class - two separate things. Identifying your animal means that your animal is a 4-H project. You are taking care of it and preparing to show that animal. Identifying animals make them eligible to show at fair but does not enter them in any fair classes.
- The identification deadline on most critters is May 15th. There are a few exceptions: market cattle is Feb.1st because they take longer to grow, poultry, pets, and rabbits is June 15th because they might not be born yet on May 15th.
- You must also make an entry for a class at fair. The fairbook will be available after March 1st to help you pick which class you need to enter. Class entries can be based on age of your animal, weight of your animal, your age, your expertise, or your animals expertise depending on the type of animal you are showing. All fair entries should be made prior to July 1st. After July 1st late county fair entries are subject to a $25 fee.
- Any critters that you are thinking about showing at the Iowa State Fair MUST complete the ID process and the entry process through 4-H online.

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- Poultry, Rabbits, Cats, & Pets - June 15th
- Fair Entry deadline: July 1st
This cold weather keeps humans indoors and horses fuzzy, but in less than 60 days hair will be flying off critters and it will be warm enough to get outside and get busy with those horses.

Horse workouts will start in early May on Tuesday evenings at the fairgrounds. You will get a chance to take your horse and practice showing for fair or just take yourself and watch and learn. Start practicing now. "Success is the sum of small efforts, repeated day in and day out."

- Robert Collier

**WEBSITES**

Ever forget where a website is or which website you need to go to get certain information? Here’s a quick reference list of some 4-H websites that have all your paperwork, information, and ideas.

**HORSE**

**The Minnesota Horse Expo** is April 25-27 in St. Paul. They have a building devoted to a 4-H tack sale, over 800 vending booths, 8 national speakers, a rodeo, and an acrobatic equestrian stunt show. [www.mnhorseexpo.org](http://www.mnhorseexpo.org)

Let’s go as a group and check it out! Contact Crystal, cnrdkrae@wcatel.net, Laurie, lpprh@aol.com, or Victoria, vschmidt@iastate.edu or 641-923-2856 if you would like to go.

**COUNTRY OF ORIGIN LABELING REMINDERS**

As you purchase new livestock projects or as they are born on your farm, remember it is your responsibility to keep records of where the animals came from.

This system is designed to allow animal by-products to be quickly and easily tracked in the event there was ever something unsafe for human consumption that showed up and needed to be quickly eliminated.

Find more information about these requirements at, [www.extension.iastate.edu/4H/Agriculture/Documents/4H231.pdf](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4H/Agriculture/Documents/4H231.pdf)

**HANCOCK COUNTY EXTENSION**

**327 WEST 8th STREET**

**GARNER, IA  50438**

**NON-PROFIT**

**U.S. POSTAGE PAID**

**GARNER, IA   50438**

**PERMIT NO. 26**

**February - March 2014**

**4-H FAMILY NEWSLETTER**

**GROWING TOGETHER**

**fun & friends**

Imagine a world of 4-H where you hang out with people that like the same things you like. Learn about things that interest you!

**BUCKET BOTTLE CALF**

The Bucket Bottle Calf show is very popular at the Hancock County District Fair. 4-Hers 4th-8th grade can compete. The fairboard sponsors identical classes for preschool -3rd. Here is a reminder of the rules:

- Calves must be born between March 15 - May 1
- Exhibitor must take possession of the calf within 2 weeks
- Calves must be tagged and identified by May 15th
- Calves must be bucket or bottle fed, no nursing
- Calves will be shown at halter
- Judging will be based on knowledge of exhibitor and health of calf

**4-H IS BASED ON RESEARCH**

**IT'S BASED ON RESEARCH**

No State Fair swine need to be weighed this year. However, State Fair swine need a DNA punch ear tag. These tags cost $8 each and must be purchased at the Extension Office. Mr. Hauge and Mr. Baumgard will tag State Fair pigs when they are on farm to weigh county animals.

All county animals must be tagged, but county fair swine only need to be weighed if they are showing in the Derby Swine classes. The County Swine weigh-in will be the week of April 5-12th. Contact Mr. Hauge or Mr. Baumgard if you need to have pigs weighed during that week.

More information will be sent to 4-Hers enrolled in the Swine project area. Questions? Call Victoria 641-923-2856.

**4-H ONLINE - iowa.4honline.com**

Manages your contact information, animal id, and state fair entries.

**STATE 4-H - www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/**

Upcoming state events, project ideas, livestock requirements, 4-H rules, links at the top to National 4-H, 4-H mall, 4-H foundation, and more.

**SWINE**

It’s getting to be the time of year that you begin to select the pigs you want as your 4-H project. Here are a few updates for swine shows this year.

- Calves must be born between March 15 - May 1
- Exhibitor must take possession of the calf within 2 weeks
- Calves must be tagged and identified by May 15th
- Calves must be bucket or bottle fed, no nursing
- Calves will be shown at halter
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**COUNTRY OF ORIGIN LA**

**BELING**

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