HAPPY NEW YEAR!

It's hard to believe the county fair will be here in a little over six months. This would be a good time to set some 4-H goals and also to check with your 4-H leader to make sure you are a 4-H member in good standing. To be eligible to exhibit at the Jasper County Fair, you must have attended at least 50% of your club meetings or activities, have paid your membership fee, and be enrolled in at least one project area. If you need help with any of this, please contact your leader or Stacey at the Extension & Outreach Office.

LIVESTOCK IDENTIFICATION

If you weighed in market cattle you will need to go into your 4hOnline account and verify that the info entered is correct. You will have until February 1st to do this. After February 1st the information will stand as entered. This is not an actual fair entry. You will need to enter the animal for county fair by May 15.

4-H ACTIVITY CANCELLATIONS

Please listen to KCOB for cancellations of 4-H events due to inclement weather.
ANIMAL SCIENCE ROUND-UP

If you are interested in animal science, look into becoming part of the Round-Up track at the State 4-H Youth Conference! We'll also have a special track devoted to agronomy, called CSI Crops. Each Round-Up Species (beef, dairy cattle, horse, sheep, and swine) will be limited to the first 20 applicants for each species. New this year is Poultry. Applications will be posted in January and are due March 1st. Youth not selected for round-up are still encouraged to attend the State Conference, as there are ag related workshops for that as well.

STATE 4-H YOUTH CONFERENCE

Youth Conference dates have been set for June 27th through June 29th. This year's theme is "Your Future Starts Here". This is a great opportunity to experience college life, attend fun events including dances and a formal banquet, as well as informative workshops. This event is free for Jasper County 4-H'ers. For more information please contact Stacey at wilsonsl@iastate.edu or log into www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/iowayouthconference

ANIMAL SCIENCE ROUND UP- Youth will be selected by application only this year and only 20 kids per species.

COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITY- CARD SHOWER

This year during our Meals From the Heartland Event we will have a station set up to make St. Patrick's Day cards to take to nursing homes. You will be able to participate in this activity if you have to wait until your assigned time to package meals or feel free to join us early, or stay after your shift to help with this project.

MEALS FROM THE HEARTLAND

Saturday, February, 25th has been set for our Meals From the Heartland 4-H Packaging Event. If your club would like to help with this event please let me (Stacey) know, so that I can get a schedule together. This year we will try to set up & work as clubs. We would like to ask for a club donation of $100 from each club participating. However, if this is a problem, let me know and we will figure something out. Everyone who wants to do this should have the opportunity to help. It's just that someone has to pay for the food.

Not all the meals packaged go to overseas. I was told that last year 600,000 of them stayed in the US, and 300,000 stayed in Iowa. They packaged 7.8 million meals all together with approximately two million of them going to Haiti, two million going to South Africa, & 285,000 to Mexico. This project seems like such a good fit for 4-H kids, because in most cases it turns out to be “kids helping kids!” There are some schools that receive these meals in some of these countries and the only reason kids show up to school is not to learn, but rather to have something to eat!!

4-H EMPowers Youth To Reach Their Full Potential Working And Learning In Partnership With Caring Adults
IOWA STATE FAIR LITTLE HANDS ON THE FARM

The Iowa State Fair would like to invite 4-H Clubs to help staff their Little Hands on the Farm Display during the 2017 Iowa State Fair. You would need to staff one of the three shifts during an assigned day. Volunteers would receive one admission ticket, one vehicle permit and a Little Hands on the Farm T-Shirt. They are ready to start scheduling shifts so if you are interested in this opportunity, contact Emily Wynn at 515-401-1544 or ewynn@iowastatefair.org.

BIRD FEEDER WREATH WORKSHOP

Join us March 4th for a bird feeder workshop. We will be making wreaths out of birdseed to hang in trees for our feathered friends. Cost is $5.00. The workshop will be at 9:00 am at the Extension Office. Call to register so we know how many supplies to buy. 641-792-6433

JUNIOR DUCK STAMP PROGRAM

Are you a student in grades K through 12? Are you looking for a fun project for the cold winter months? Prepare an entry for the 2017 Federal Junior Duck Stamp Contest! Google “Junior Duck Stamp” for contest rules and entry forms. Do a little research from the list of eligible species on the website and decide what species you want to depict. Decide what medium you want to use for your entry. Get started! Iowa entries must be postmarked by March 15. There are 100 winners from each state. You could be one of those winners! Good luck! Email Doreen_vanryswyk@FWS.gov or call 515-994-3400 if you have questions or would like some 9 x 12 inch paper for your entry.

STATE 4-H SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DUE FEB. 1

Information and applications for the 4-H Scholarships are now available online through the Iowa 4-H Foundation at www.iowa4hfoundation.org/scholarships. Applications must be submitted online no later than 11:59 PM, Feb 1st, 2017 for consideration. Don’t wait until the last minute, letters of reference also need to be submitted electronically.

OUR VISION

A WORLD IN WHICH YOUTH AND ADULTS LEARN, GROW, AND WORK TOGETHER AS CATALYSTS FOR POSITIVE CHANGE
BUCKET OF JUNK CONTEST FOR FAIR

Do you enjoy welding, or would like to learn how to weld? This year will be the fourth year for the Bucket of Junk Contest at the Jasper County Fair. The Bucket of Junk rules are listed below. If you are interested in participating, please call the Extension Office on Monday, February 13th. We will take reservations for participation in the project starting on **Monday, February 13th**. If you are a youth that would like to participate but do not know an adult that can help you weld, please call the Extension Office to sign-up and we will find an adult to work with you. There are only 8 buckets available, so if you sign-up please be sure that you want to participate in the project. To sign up simply be one of the first eight callers to the Extension Office on Monday, Feb 13th, letting us know you want to participate in this contest. Our office hours are 7:30 am to 4:30 pm.

**Rules:**
- Each team will be made up of one 4-H member and one adult.
- If you are a youth that would like to participate but do not know an adult who can help you, please contact the Extension Office and we will find an adult who knows how to weld to help you.
- Each team will get one bucket. Each bucket will have the similar “junk.”
- There will be only 8 buckets available. The first 8 members to contact the Extension Office will be given a bucket of junk.
- The goal is to use the items in your bucket to create a sculpture or lawn art piece.
- You will be asked to name your creation when you turn in the final exhibit.
- You may clean, sand, weld, glue, cut, bolt, fasten, bend, shape, paint or finish the items that you are provided, but no pieces may be added.
- Entries will be judged on artistic merit, technical merit, and the member’s exhibit write-up.
- All entries will be judged in the 4-H Building on the day of regular 4-H/FFA judging.
- All entries must be completed and returned to the Jasper County Extension Office by June 1st.
- All 4-H Exhibit Building rules apply to this project.
- These projects will not be eligible to advance to the State Fair.
- The finished products will be auctioned during the livestock auction at the Jasper County Fair. Proceeds will go to the Jasper County 4-H Program.
- When designing your sculpture pay close attention to **Copyright/Trademark** designs. You may need to send a request for permission letter/email.

Please contact the Extension at 641-792 6433 or wilsonsl@iastate.edu for more information.

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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.
SWINE VERIFICATION -

Swine Verification will be held on Sunday April 23rd from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. at the Jasper County Fair Grounds in Colfax.

All pigs must be farrowed after January 1st of the current year and be ear notched at birth according the swine registry system.

TAGGING - All pigs will be tagged for the Jasper County & State Fairs.

WEIGHING - Only pigs being nominated for the DERBY CLASS will be weighed in. If you plan to exhibit in the Derby Class you must know which pigs you are going to nominate for this at the time of the verification. The maximum weight to qualify as a derby pig is 125 lbs.

New This Year - Purebred Breeding Gilts and purebred Market Hog Classes. Exhibitors must bring the original purebred registration papers to the county fair. Breeds include: Berkshire, Chester White, Duroc, Hampshire, Landrace, Poland China, and Spotted & Yorkshire.

EQUINE EXTRAVAGANZA -

Registration is now open for the Equine Extravaganza – March 24, 25, & 26 at Ellsworth College in Iowa Falls. Registration is due March 1, 2017. There are a lot of opportunities for 4-H’ers to participate including Quiz Bowl (team), Hippology (team or individual), Model Horse, Photography, Digital Storytelling, Creative Writing, Drawing, Painting, Poster, Scrapbook, Clothing, Woodworking, Crafts and more.

Grab a camera and take some fun horse photos or write a short story about an adventure you have had with your horse, sign up to show model horses, prepare a team demonstration with a friend or make a saddle rack. These are just a few ways you can participate in the event.

There will also be an Adult Judges Certification Clinic available on March 26 for any adult interested in becoming a horse judge.

Rules and entry forms can be found at www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/equineextravaganza

4-H IS BASED ON RESEARCH
EQUINE EXPERIENCE

Mark your calendars!
The Equine Experience Club will begin arena practice starting in April
-The Jasper County 4-H/FFA Horse Show is scheduled for June 10th in Colfax – door prizes all day long, and high point awards for each division.

If you have questions, or would like more information about the Jasper County 4-H Equine Experience Special Interest Club, you can visit their Facebook page, or contact one of the leaders: Denise Fick fickdenise@aol.com or Alex Cleverley alcleverley@gmail.com

WHAT IS DUE WHEN FOR THE JASPER COUNTY FAIR

As a reminder to 4-H’ers and to inform new families the following guideline will be in every newsletter from here on out (providing there is room). If entries are late they are brought before a committee and the decision is made as if the 4-H’er will be allowed to exhibit. We hate to keep anyone from showing at the fair however; it’s not fair to those who get their entries in correctly and on time. Hopefully, this will help, and remember... If in doubt ASK!

May 15 – Identify all animals in 4hOnline this includes Breeding Beef, Bottle Calves, Dairy Cattle, Dairy & Meat Goats, Dogs, Horses, Llamas, Sheep, & Swine, Rabbits, Cats, & Poultry (Market Beef are done in Dec/Jan following weigh in.)

May 15- County Fair Entry Process –be watching future newsletters and email for more information and help sheets for county fair entry.

July 1- Entries for Communications- Working Exhibits, Share the Fun, Extemporaneous Speaking, & Educational Presentations. Clothing Selection and Fashion Review Entries are also due July 1st to our office and entered into Fair Entry.

July 1- STATE FAIR ENTRY FORM DUE

July 12- 4-H Building Exhibits Entries Due. This was done in 4hOnline last year, and worked out very well.

Again this year, ALL paper work needs to be complete when you bring your projects to the fair. We will no longer have forms, goal sheets, and tags available in the 4-H building.
Congratulations to the Jasper County 4-H Gearbots! They have won the state championship which was held on Saturday, January 14 at ISU. They advance to the World Championship in St. Louis on April 26-29. The team also won 1st place in the Global Innovation Award for their calf pacifier invention and may have the opportunity to advance toward Washington, D.C. for the overall finals.

Throughout the season the team has done research on Animal Allies. Researching ways to help animals better or how animals can help us humans. The group had the opportunity to talk to many professionals while coming up with their patent calf pacifier, they were able to talk with cattlemen in the area, visit with an employer and have a conference call from Bartek Designs, and a meeting and a visit with Tim Zarley at Zarley Law Firm in Des Moines as the patent lawyer. Congratulations again to the team and for representing Jasper County 4-H.

Front Row L-R
  Easton Klein, Asher Wood, Holly Zahurones, Isaiah Wilson
Middle Row L-R
  Beth Zahurones, Issac Altman, Caleb Ness, Joshua Ness, Carlee Zahurones
Back Row L-R
  Brian Ness, Damon Reynolds, Scott Wilson, Annaliese Wilson, Kara Warrick
FSQA - FOOD SAFETY QUALITY ASSURANCE - REQUIRED FOR LIVESTOCK EXHIBITORS

FSQA TRAINING IS REQUIRED FOR ANY YOUTH PLANNING TO SHOW RABBITS, POULTRY, DAIRY, GOATS, BEEF, SWINE, & SHEEP (BOTH MARKET AND BREEDING CLASSES) AT THE JASPER COUNTY OR IOWA STATE FAIR.

FSQA Training for Jasper County 4-H and FFA Members will be held on Thursday, March 23rd from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at DMACC in Newton. Tests will be available for those in 7th – 12th grade who wish to test out.

- Youth in grades 4 – 6, on January 1 must attend a training each year.
- Youth in grades 7, 8, & 9 on January 1 may attend training each year or take a test. Youth passing the test will then be certified until they enter 10th grade.
- Youth in grades 10, 11, & 12 on January 1 may attend the training each year or take the test. We strongly encourage these youth to test out because they will then be certified until the age of 20.

If you need to know if your certificate is valid for this year, you can check your 4hOnline acct. If you need a manual to study for the test, they are on the State 4-H Livestock page. If you have any questions please call me (Stacey) at the Extension & Outreach Office at 641 792 6433. Also call the Extension & Outreach Office to register for this class by March 23rd.

If this date does not work for you, you will need to make arrangements to test at a neighboring county. We can help you with that.

STATE 4-H RECOGNITION

Did you receive a “Top” Project Award at your county awards program? If so, why not consider taking your recordkeeping skills to the next level? The State 4-H Recognition Day will be held on Saturday, April 1st, 2017 on the Iowa State University campus. Applications are due 2/1/17.

The State 4-H Recognition help sheets, evaluations, and online application links are now posted and ready for all Iowa 4-H’ers to access at the web link below.

How about applying for one of the other State Recognition Opportunities?
- National 4-H Conference
- National 4-H Congress
- State 4-H Council
- Shooting Sports Ambassador Program
- State Project Award (may apply for up to two project areas)

For information about the recognition opportunities, please visit the 4-H Recognition Opportunities website: http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/page/recognition-opportunities.

Please contact Cayla Taylor, 515-294-1877 or cayla@iastate.edu for more information.
2017 JASPER COUNTY FAIR THEME

The Jasper County Fair board has selected “Let the Good Times Grow” for the theme of this year’s fair.

LET THE GOOD TIMES GROW
at the Jasper County Fair!
July 14-20, 2017

JUNIOR 4-H OVERNIGHT TRIP TO THE OMAHA ZOO

Lions, Tigers, and Polar Bears? Save the date and Join us for an adventure of a lifetime as we travel to Omaha and spend the night in the Shark Reef of the Henry Dooley Zoo. We will go on a guided night hike and see an IMAX movie. This trip is for 4-H’ers in 4th through 6th grade and who are in Region 14 (Jasper, Marion, Poweshiek, & Mahaska Counties). The date of the trip is May 19th to the 20th. Be watching your mail for more information and a registration form later this spring.

INTERMEDIATE TRIP TO SOUTH DAKOTA

Intermediates (7th – 8th grade 4-H’ers). Save the dates of June 12 – 14 for the annual Intermediate Trip. This year we will be travelling to South Dakota for a trip through the Black Hills. Be watching for registration information and a detailed schedule of the trip.
Bird Feeder workshop

When: Saturday, March 4th at 9:00 am.

Where: Jasper County Extension & Outreach Office

Cost: Five Dollars per person

Please join us for a fun morning. You will make a birdfeeder to take home, there will be refreshments, and door prizes. 😊

Call to register and save your spot at 641-792-6433