Spring has arrived! And with it’s arrival comes several new deadlines and activities to start looking forward to. The first event coming up is sheep/goat weigh-in on May 2nd. This will be held at the Kossuth Co. fairgrounds from 9:00-11:00 AM. Also if anyone is looking for a bottle lamb for a project I have a few producers that have told me they have some for sale, if anyone is interested please call me at the office and I will get you their information. There are several important and interesting pieces of information in this month’s newsletter so please make sure to read it carefully and pay extra attention to dates! Have a wonderful month and let’s hope that these April showers will bring plenty of May flowers!

Katie Holmes
County Youth Educator
Sheep/Goat Weigh-In

This year’s sheep/goat weigh-in will be held Saturday May 2nd from 9-11 AM at the Kossuth Co. Fairgrounds in the Southeast corner of the show barn. All market sheep and meat goats need to be weighed in at this time. If you are planning to attend State Fair or AK-SAR-BEN you need to bring these animals to be weighed and or ID’d at this time as well. If you have any questions please call Katie at the Extension Office 295-2469.

Lotto Lambs

All Lambs will be purchased by exhibitors at market price from a uniform source at the May county weigh in. Lambs will be tagged and weighed and must be paid for before leaving the weigh in site. If you intend to participate in the Lotto Lamb class, you must let the Extension office know by April 24th. Exhibitors may sign up for 2 head. Animal assignments will be made using a lottery system at weigh in. Up to two lambs may be purchased and exhibited by each participant.

Re-enrollment

Don’t Forget!

Please don’t forget to get onto your 4-hOnline account and re-enroll for the new 4-H year if you haven’t done so yet. You must be enrolled before Sheep/Goat Weigh-In if you are weighing in an animal. All re-enrollments must be done online. If you have questions please call the Extension office to set up a time to meet with Katie, who will help you register.
**Camp Critters**
Day camp Grades 2-3
June 10—Smith Lake

**Bugs & Butterflies**
Day camp Grades K-1
June 16—Smith Lake
July 28—Smith Lake

**Nature’s Detectives**
Day camp Grades 4-6
July 7—Smith Lake

**Jr. Camp**
Overnight camp Grades 4-6
June 14-15—Crystal Lake

**Market Broilers**
Thinking about raising chickens? You can sign up for the Market Broiler class by May 15th, pick up your chicks in Bancroft June 17th and bring them to the fair. All chicks for the county will be hatched the same day. The exhibitor may purchase 15 for $12.45 or 25 birds for $20.75. The completed participation form and money must be turned into the Extension office to participate. It is a fun project and a great deal! (A big THANK YOU to Welps for their continued support in providing the banded birds at such a low price!) Contact the office for more information. The form is also available on the web or at the office. Click here for form.

**Why can’t the bankrupt cowboy complain? He has no beef.**
Acreage Living Newsletter Addresses April Showers, May Flowers and Other Spring Issues

Plan ahead to capture rain for dry summer season

AMES, Iowa — “April showers bring May flowers”— along with yard work, weeds and excess rainwater. Acreage owners can be proactive about managing all these spring tasks by subscribing to the electronic Acreage Liv-ing newsletter, offered free from Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Small Farm Sustainability Program. The recently published Spring 2015 e-newsletter provides readers with resources and information to manage spring home and landscaping projects.

Excess rainwater is inevitable in the spring, but can it be contained and reused?

“Harvesting rainwater has gained attention in recent years, especially after the Midwest experienced a couple seasons of wet springs followed by several dry weeks during the growing season,” said Linda Naeve, value added agriculture specialist with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

In the wet season, runoff from roofs and drain pipes can create rivulettes and trenches across a landscape. But the dry season has homeowners wishing for a little more rain to keep plants alive. These problems can be solved with a rainwater catchment system.

“Use of collected rainwater reduces the need for potable water for outdoor water uses, such as watering landscape plants,” Naeve said. The rainwater catchment article explains how to calculate the amount of water a catchment will need to hold, what to use for a catchment, different ways to use the collected water, and where to purchase the supplies needed to install a rainwater catchment system.

The Acreage Living newsletter also offers information on May flowers. Planning how to use extensive space around a rural home can be tricky, but the article on spatial design explains how to find the most aesthetically pleasing way to organize flower beds.

“By using bubble (or functional) diagrams and form composition studies, a comprehensive spatial design can be achieved that will miraculously reveal garden rooms surrounded by planting beds,” said Lisa Orgler, professor of horticulture with Iowa State University.

Her article describes how to study the relationship of spaces and the visual connections between them. Once a homeowner understands how to use space efficiently, garden areas can be defined with a strong shape inspired by a particular garden style or even the architecture of the owner’s home. After plans have been laid out for a beautifully designed landscape, the only thing left to do is to start digging and plant.

Additional articles featured in this issue include manure management, using riparian buffer strips, and managing thistles.

To subscribe to future issues or to view past issues, visit the Small Farm Sustainability Web page at www.extension.iastate.edu/smallfarms

What new crop did the farmer plan? Beets me!
Why shouldn’t you tell a secret on a farm? Because the potatoes have eyes and the corn has ears!

### Kossuth County Extension Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apr 14</td>
<td>Commercial Manure 8:30 AM @ Extension Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 28</td>
<td>Confinement Manure 8:30 AM @ Extension Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 1</td>
<td>State Fair Market Broiler Entry Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 2</td>
<td>Kossuth Co. Sheep/Goat Weigh-In 9-11 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 4</td>
<td>New Member Meeting 7:00 PM @ Extension Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 15</td>
<td>All Animal ID’s Due on 4hOnline!</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 15</td>
<td>Market Broiler Sign-Up Due to Extension Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 1</td>
<td>Sign-Up Deadline for State 4-H Conference</td>
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#### New Member Meeting

**Welcome & New Member Meeting**

We would like to welcome all new members and their parents to the 4-H program. We have information about the 4-H program and using 4-H online. This online computer program will be your guide to enrollment, project signup and livestock identification for the fair and all livestock shows. New member handbooks will be available.

**Who:** All New 4-H Members and Parents  
**What:** New Member Informational Meeting  
**Where:** Kossuth County Extension Office  
**When:** Monday, May 4 7:00 p.m.

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#### State Fair Market Broilers Entry

Now open and available in 4-H Online!

At the bottom of your family screen there are 2 gray boxes. Select the member and then select the event. You may select the worksheet entry or click on the register tab to get you started. All entries must be paid and sent to the Iowa State Fair.  
**Due by May 1, 2015**
Happy Birthday to the following 4-Her’s who will be celebrating during the month of April!

Shayla Heetland 2
Caleb Christensen 4
Tiffany Stroebel 9
Trevor Kruse 11
Eli Morris 25