



MAHASKA COUNTY

4-H NEWS

December 2023

FROM THE CYC'S CORNER

Happy holidays!

As the end of the year fast approaches, keep in mind that all returning 4-H members MUST be enrolled in 4hOnline by January 1, 2024. Scan the QR code to the right for a 4hOnline family enrollment guide for assistance. If you have questions, do not hesitate to reach out to me at rabotski@iastate.edu or 641-676-9121



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ISU Extension and Outreach

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EVENTS

BEEF WEIGH IN

December 9
8 - 10:30 a.m.
Fairgrounds Scale

COMMUNICATIONS WORKSHOP

December 11
6:30 - 8 p.m.
Extension Office

KISSING BALLS HORTICULTURE WORKSHOP

December 12
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Extension Office

BUCKET/BOTTLE ANIMALS WORKSHOP

February 20
6 - 7 p.m.
Extension Office

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Office Closure Notice



ENROLLMENT DUE

If you have not yet enrolled in 4-H online, now is the time! Enrollment opened on September 1, 2023 and must be completed by January 1, 2024. Enrollment can be completed on 4-H Online (4honline.com). If you have any questions, feel free to contact Shannon at 641-676-9121 or rabotski@iastate.edu.

- All previously enrolled Mahaska County 4-H members MUST enroll in 4-H Online and have all program fees paid by JANUARY 1, 2024 in order to be eligible to exhibit at the 2024 Southern Iowa Fair. New 4-H members have until May 15, 2024 to enroll.
- The annual program fee is \$35 to enroll in 4-H. This is thanks to Mahaska County Farm Bureau! They are donating a \$5 scholarship for each 4-H member and the Mahaska County Extension Council is providing a \$5 scholarship for each 4-H member with funds from Iowa 4-H Foundation. If this fee presents an undue financial burden, financial aid is available from the Mahaska County 4-H Foundation. Please contact the Extension Office for assistance.
- All families are strongly encouraged to pay their enrollment fees online when they enroll. Go to extension.iastate.edu/4h/4honline-information-families-and-leaders for family enrollment help sheets.



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Inclement Weather Policy

As we settle into winter, it is important to keep in mind winter safety. Clubs are encouraged to have their own inclement weather policies that are shared with members. Stay up-to-date on the latest weather cancellations on the 4-H : Mahaska County Facebook page. Talk with your club leader for specific information on your club's inclement weather policy. Have a safe and healthy holiday season!

Remember!!

A **winter storm watch** indicates that severe winter weather may affect your area

A **winter storm warning** indicates that severe winter weather conditions are definitely on the way or are already here

A **blizzard warning** means that large amounts of falling or blowing snow and sustained winds of at least 35 miles per hour are expected for several hours

A **blowing snow advisory** is issued when wind-driven snow reduces surface visibility, possibly hampering travel

A **wind chill warning** is issued when the wind chill is life threatening

A **freezing rain/drizzle advisory** is issued when freezing rain or freezing drizzle is forecast but a significant accumulation is not expected. However, even small amounts of freezing rain or freezing drizzle may cause significant travel problems

WINTER SAFETY TIPS



01

Stay Informed

Monitor for severe winter weather in your area at the NOAA National Weather Service: weather.gov/ During a winter storm, listen to local news and weather channels for situation developments and road closures

02

Prepare an Emergency Kit

- Food, water and necessities for all members of the family to last 3 to 5 days
- Any medications needed for family members
- First aid kit, battery powered radio, flashlight with extra batteries
- Sleeping bag or blankets
- extra clothing and boots, hats, mittens
- Fire extinguisher
- Emergency contact numbers



Prepare Your Vehicle for Winter

- Have your car systems serviced and check the battery, antifreeze, wipers, etc.
- Prepare a survival kit including: blankets/sleeping bags, extra winter clothes, boots, high calorie, non-perishable food, a can and waterproof matches to melt snow for drinking water, flashlight, extra batteries, battery powered radio, first aid kit, shovel, windshield scraper, road salt, sand or cat litter, cell phone and charger, jumper cables, tow rope, tool kit, compass and road maps

03

Develop an Emergency Plan for Water and Feed Resources

- Obtain emergency supplies of forage and grain
- Identify emergency resources for water
- Have a list of suppliers, truckers and people that can help with the animals, especially if normal working conditions are disrupted

04

05

Set up Shelter or Windbreak Areas for Animals

- Shelter areas for your livestock can be shallow open front sheds, windbreaks or timber-covered lowlands, solid-sided feed wagons (place plywood or bales or straw under wagon to block the wind)
- Winterize any building that may provide shelter for your livestock by checking roof structure and stability, repairing any roof leaks and installing storm shutters, doors and windows

Congratulations to our Awards Winners



Eliza Van Zante, Outstanding Intermediate in Family and Consumer Science; Rachel Groenendyk, Outstanding Junior in Ag & Natural Resources; Eliza Van Zante, Outstanding Intermediate in Ag & Natural Resources



Nora DeGroot, Outstanding Junior in Science, Mechanics and Engineering



Olivia DeGroot, Outstanding Intermediate



TOP LEFT: Arianna Jackson, Intermediate Beef; Johnathan Jackson, Junior Beef; Olivia DeGroot, Intermediate Horticulture; Brie Marshall, Intermediate Poultry; Eliza Van Zante, Intermediate Goat

TOP RIGHT: Addyson Wells, Intermediate Rabbit; Madison Smith, Intermediate Clothing; Rachel Groenendyk, Junior Communications; Brandon Groenendyk, Senior Communications, Laura Cassill, Junior Llama

LEFT: Andrew Stodghill, Senior Sheep; Harper McKinney, Junior Dog; Brie Marshall, Intermediate Dog; Jaycee Long, Junior Photography; Brandon Groenendyk, Intermediate Photography; Rachel Groenendyk, Intermediate Sheep

BOTTOM: Mason Beane, Eliza Van Zante, Edna Van Zante, Addison Beane, Andrew Stodghill, Charlie Ferree and Arianna Jackson are sworn in as Honor Council Members by leader Megan VerSteegh.



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Congratulations to our Awards Winners



Chris Ver Steegh, Phyllis Ver Steegh, Renee Ferguson, Jayne Ferguson; Awards of the Clover



Cassie Ferree, Jenny Van Zante, Orla Stodghill, Tina Marshall; Awards of the Clover



ABOVE: Johnathan Jackson of the Mahaska Masters 4-H Club and Eliza Van Zante of the Cedar Livestock 4-H Club for the Chamber Community Service Award

BELOW: Nora De Groot, Outstanding Junior; Brandon Groenendyk, Outstanding Intermediate; Andrew Stodghill, Outstanding Senior



Laura Cassill, Outstanding Llama, Photography, Horticulture and Rabbits



Olivia DeGroot, Top Historian; Rachel Groenendyk, Top Secretary; Eliza Van Zante, Top Treasurer



CONGRATULATIONS to all of our general project award winners and to those who were unable to attend the recognition event. Our members and clubs had some amazing accomplishments this year and we are so excited to see what you all achieve in 2024.

Clover Kids: This Month

Last month, our Clover Kids talked about light and used lasers, mirrors and prisms. This month, we will explore gravity with the book “I Fall Down” and create marble roller coasters.

The Oskaloosa Christian School Clover Kids will have their first meeting on December 7 from 3:15 - 4:15 p.m.



by Vicki Cobb illustrated by Julia Gorton
SCHOLASTIC

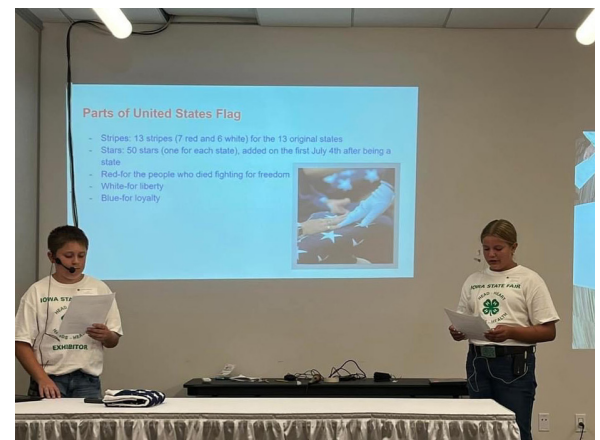
Communications Workshop

DECEMBER 11 FROM 6:30 P.M. - 8 P.M.

Leaders and parents, would you like to be more confident in helping your 4-H'er with communications? Parents, leaders, 4-H members, and community members are invited to learn about all types of communications: Educational Presentations, Extemporaneous Speaking, Working exhibits and Share the Fun exhibits. This will be a fun-filled and educational night of learning the difference between all types of presentations within the communications project area. We encourage everyone to join us, even if you aren't sure about the communications area. This event will be very helpful and informative to everyone.

We look forward to seeing you!

RSVP is not required, but strongly recommended. For more information/RSVP: text, call, or email your communications superintendents; Abby Drost: 641-670-7375 or abbydrost@gmail.com | Karen Adams: 641-295-6633 or adams4cy@gmail.com



IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
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MAHASKA CO. 4-H & MASTER GARDENERS PRESENT

HORTICULTURE

IN THE

HOLIDAYS

KISSING BALLS

COME AND LEARN ABOUT THE HORTICULTURE PROJECT AS WE SPEND THE WORKSHOP MAKING OUR VERY OWN KISSING BALLS



DATE

TUESDAY DEC. 12

TIME

6:30 - 7:30 P.M.

WHERE

**EXTENSION OFFICE
AUDITORIUM**

COST

\$5

REGISTRATION

This workshop is open to those enrolled in 4-H. Register today via 4-H Online! Log in to 4-H Online and click on events. Make sure to filter by county area events.

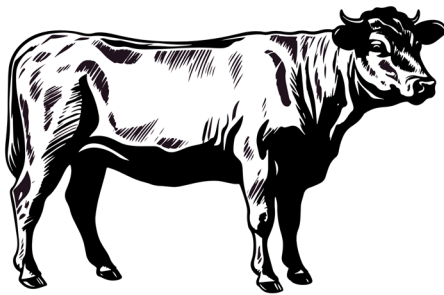
This workshop has a max. of 20 and min. of 10 participants. Deadline to register is December 6.



2023 Beef Weigh-In

DECEMBER 9, 2023 FROM 8 A.M. - 10:30 A.M.

Inclement weather date is Saturday, December 16 from 8 -10:30 a.m. In case of inclement weather, watch for email, text, and check our 4-H Facebook page.



LOCATION

Fairgrounds Scale (Pull in on SOUTH side, go behind sheep & beef barns)

COST

County Fair Verification \$2.00/head (tag)
State Fair Verification: \$7.00/head
(retinal scan and tag)

Beef Class Options: Exhibitors are responsible for signing up for classes at this weigh-in.

Carcass Beef: Exhibitors may enter a max of two animals; however, a list of names was taken several months ago due to locker availability. Those who are on the reservation list will be given slots that were requested. Please contact Shannon at 676-9121 if you wish to be added to the list.

Advanced Feeder Pens: 2-5 head of cattle per pen, more than one pen per exhibitor is acceptable. Monthly records must be kept and submitted to the Extension office.

Return Bucket/Bottle: All Return B/B entries must have been exhibited by a Mahaska County 4-H or FFA member at the 2023 Southern Iowa Fair in the 4-H/FFA Bucket/Bottle Calf Show. Open Bucket/Bottle Calves are not eligible to be exhibited as Return Bucket/Bottle Animals since they were not part of the 4-H/FFA program in 2023 (even if the exhibit was in Clover Kids).

No Fit Beef: Open to Heifers & Steers, animals cannot be clipped at all between weigh-in and county fair.

Mahaska County Market Beef: Open to any Mahaska County born & raised heifer or steer

Market Steer: Open to any market steer, will be shown by end weight

Market Heifer: Open to any market heifer, will be shown by end weight

The Superintendents request that all calves coming to the December weigh-in have some type of halter on for the safety of all in attendance at the weigh-in.

Animal Identification: Due February 1, 2024. Youth are responsible for making sure their ID forms are complete and correct before leaving the weigh-in site.

FAMILIES will enter the animal information into 4-H Online. This is for county and state fair animals. Families have until February 1, 2024 to enter their animal identification(s) into 4hOnline. The county 4-H staff will double-check the entries and contact families if something doesn't match up. *This also means that families will input registration numbers/breed information into the system by February 1.*

"Pending" for the registration number blank is not acceptable (state fair beef). A help sheet is available on 4-H Online.

Iowa State Fair: All breed information and registration numbers for market beef must be in 4hOnline by February 1, no exceptions. All heifers going to the Iowa State Fair must have tattoos plus one of the following: registration # if purebred, calfhood vaccine #, or 4-H tag.

Breeding Heifer Information: Breeding Heifers must either have a tattoo or 4-H tag and be identified by the families in 4hOnline (paper ID for FFA only) by May 15. Iowa State Fair Breeding Beef must have all breed and registration information entered by the family in 4hOnline by May 15. Tattoos/tags will not be checked until fair check-in.

If you have any questions, please contact a Beef Superintendent: Dave Orman (814-2599), Kyle Shaw (670-0279), Clayton Hester (295-5013), or Kristyn Phearman (660-2733). **Carcass:** Heather Shaw (670-0107)



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Mahaska County Extension Office
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Oskaloosa, IA 52577

*Helping make 4-H possible
in Mahaska County.*



**United Way
of Mahaska County**



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