



# MAHASKA COUNTY

## 4-H NEWS

February 2024

### FROM THE CYC'S CORNER

Thank you so much to all of our 4-H members and families for getting market beef identified before the February 1 deadline! Continue keeping an eye on the newsletters for more important dates and deadlines.

If you have something to include in an upcoming newsletter, reach out to Shannon. Have a great February!

### UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

#### PUPPETS OF THE WORLD UPCYCLING WORKSHOP

February 13  
5 - 7 p.m.  
Extension Office

#### BUCKET/BOTTLE ANIMALS WORKSHOP

February 20  
6 - 7 p.m.  
Extension Office

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#### ISU Extension and Outreach

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# Summer Intern Position Available

Are you a college student that has an interest in working with youth? Well we have the opportunity for you! We are hiring a Summer Youth Program Intern to help assist our office in summer programing.

This position will be responsible for planning, coordinating, and promoting our summer day camps as well as assisting with preparing for the Southern Iowa Fair.

This is a temporary position that will last mid-May through August, start date is negotiable.

For a full position description and details on how to apply check out our website.

## WE ARE HIRING

### JOIN OUR TEAM

- Summer Youth Program Intern
- May - August, 2024
- Deadline to apply: Feb 7, 2024
- Assist the office in Southern Iowa Fair planning and Day Camp coordination and implementation

**Submit your cover letter and resume  
to Shannon Rabotski**

[RABOTSKI@IASTATE.EDU](mailto:RABOTSKI@IASTATE.EDU)



## Superintendent Openings

We are currently on the search for poultry and beef superintendents. If you or someone you know would be interested in being a poultry or beef superintendent, please send them our way.

All superintendents work as a committee with the other current superintendents throughout the year. Decisions are made as a group and then approved by the 4-H Staff, Extension Council, and Fair Board. Volunteers must complete and pass an ISU Extension background screening and be approved by the Mahaska County Extension Council. Please contact Shannon Rabotski at 641-676-9121 or [rabotski@iastate.edu](mailto:rabotski@iastate.edu) if you are interested.



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## YQCA for Livestock Exhibitors



YQCA stands for Youth for the Quality Care of Animals and is required for 4-H & FFA members exhibiting Poultry, Rabbits, Sheep, Beef, Dairy, Swine, Meat Goat, & Myotonic Goat. It is not required for Bucket/Bottle, Llama/Alpaca, or Horse project exhibitors. YQCA is an online training that can be completed at home or at the Extension office (by appointment). Cost to take the online training is \$12.00 each year. Those who complete a financial aid application at the Extension office will automatically receive a coupon code to use.

Many of you have already taken advantage of January's many snow days to complete the YQCA coursework — thank you to those of you that have!

**YQCA must be completed by JULY 1 for members to be eligible to exhibit livestock at the county and/or state fair.** The YQCA online program includes three components for each topic (food safety, animal wellbeing, and character development):

1) knowledge building, 2) skills lab, 3) quiz for each content topic. The online program is very interactive, bright, colorful, relatable, and fun!

To access YQCA please go to <https://yqcaprogram.org/>

Use this helpful guide to access the training and your certificate:

[https://yqcaprogram.org/local/pdf/YQCA\\_HelpDoc\\_GettingYourWBTCertification.pdf](https://yqcaprogram.org/local/pdf/YQCA_HelpDoc_GettingYourWBTCertification.pdf)

Once you complete YQCA please send a copy of your certificate to the Extension Office. We will accept hard copies or digital copies of the certificate. **Please email certificates to [rabotski@iastate.edu](mailto:rabotski@iastate.edu).**

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## Mahaska County 4-H Deadline Policy

The Mahaska County Extension Council approved a new deadline policy in January 2023. 4-H members and families are encouraged to review the policy and make note of important deadlines to avoid missing them. The policy is as follows:

Every 4-H member is allowed one free pass in their 4-H career if they miss a county issued deadline. A second pass will be awarded at the cost of a \$100 late fee (this fee is in addition to any other associated fees). There will not be a third opportunity of forgiveness for a missed deadline. This exception does not apply to animal identification deadlines of February 1 (market beef), May 15 (all other animals), and any other state issued deadlines; these dates are set by Iowa 4-H and are non-negotiable. In cases of late fair entires, this exception will only be accepted if space allows for the entry.



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## Clubs and Meeting Times

### Oskaloosa Clover Kids

**Meeting Time/Date:** Tuesday, February 13 at 4:30-5:30 p.m.

**Location:** ISU Extension Auditorium

### Oskaloosa Christian School

**Meeting Time/Date:** Thursday, February 8 at 3:15-4:15 p.m.

**Location:** Christian School Music Room

### Harrison Hustlers Clover Kids

**Meeting Time/Date:** Monday, February 12 at 7-8 p.m.

**Location:** EBF High School

### North Mahaska Clover Kids

**Meeting Time/Date:** Tuesday, February 6 at 4-5 p.m.

**Location:** Friends Church

### Eddyville Clover Kids

**Meeting Time/Date:** Thursday, February 1 at 3:15-4:15 p.m.

**Location:** Eddyville Elementary School

### Cedar Livestock Clover Kids

**Meeting Time/Date:** Sunday, February 11 at 2:15-3:15 p.m.

**Location:** Fremont Community Church

## Clover Kids Registration is OPEN!

Clover Kid registration is still open via 4-H Online. All Clover Kids registrations need to be completed online [www.v2.4honline.com](http://www.v2.4honline.com). **Clover Kids meeting are in full swing, but you can still join us!**

Cost to join Clover Kids will be \$25.00 for the year which includes a t-shirt, monthly activities, and snacks at our monthly meetings. Each month will consist of a new lesson that will include activities and crafts. Unfortunately, children who are enrolled in Kinder-Prep are not eligible, only those who are enrolled in Kindergarten-3rd grade students are eligible.

## Clover Kids Meetings

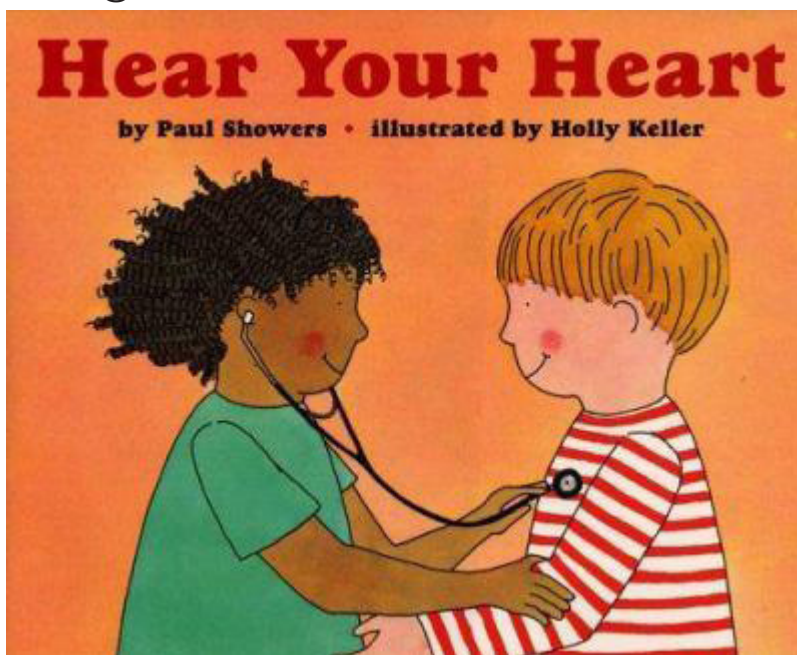
Meeting dates, times, and locations are all located to the left. Please double check your meeting time and location so your do not miss out on your club's meeting.

This month's meeting is titled Hear Your Heart

Agenda Items Include:

- Snack & Drink
  - Reading: Hear Your Heart
  - Stethoscope exploration
- Create a pop-up Valentine

Interested in participating or volunteering for Clover Kids in 2023-2024? Contact Shannon Rabotski at [rabotski@iastate.edu](mailto:rabotski@iastate.edu) or 641-673-5841.





# ATTENTION ALL ADVANCED FEEDER PARTICIPANTS

**IF YOU HAVE AN ANIMAL YOU INTEND TO SHOW AS  
ADVANCED FEEDR, PLEASE LET SHANNON KNOW ASAP.**

This information should have been collected at the Beef Weigh-In, but I mistakenly thought that it would be included in animal identifications on 4-H online. Our superintendents need to know the number of youth participating in the advanced feeder program, so please contact Shannon at [rabotski@iastate.edu](mailto:rabotski@iastate.edu) if you intend to show advanced feeder this year.

## Annual rabbit and cavy workshop March 9 in Colfax

The 4H and FFA rabbit and cavy workshop about raising rabbits and cavies will be held at the Jasper County Fairgrounds in Colfax, Iowa on Saturday March 9 from 12:30 - 4:00 pm. This workshop is sponsored by Iowa State University Extension & Outreach 4H, Iowa State Rabbit Breeders, South Central Iowa Rabbit Breeders, and Eldon C Stutsman Inc and Heinold Feeds.

There is no need to preregister and no cost (except for those youth who are purchasing rabbits or cavies and/or building a carrier and/or purchasing rabbit and cavy equipment). Youth from Iowa and other states are encouraged to attend. Speakers will discuss rabbit breeds, cavy breeds, health, equipment, grooming, showing and fair information. Each family will receive a free packet of 4H and FFA rabbit and cavy information. Youth will receive free tickets for a huge drawing.

Youth are encouraged to bring their rabbits and cavies (purebred guinea pigs) and consult with speakers. Examples of rabbits and cavies will be presented and discussed. Purebred rabbits and cavies will be for sale with cash the preferred payment. A "build your rabbit or cavy carrier" session will be held with Wolfe's Animal Supply. Call to pre-order for the correct carrier size by contacting Bill at 515-556-5123 or [Wolferabbit3@mediacombb.net](mailto:Wolferabbit3@mediacombb.net).

Rabbits can be tattooed. Cavies can be tagged. Youth need to decide on a short name or numbers for each rabbit tattoo. Youth may show their rabbits or cavies in a free "practice" rabbit and cavy show. All rabbits and cavies showing in the "practice" show are required to be earmarked with a tattoo for a rabbit or an ear tag for a cavy.

Youth may want to attend, participate and/or watch the 2024 ARBA (American Rabbit Breeders Association) open and youth sanctioned rabbit and cavy shows held at Amana Iowa on April 20 or in Colfax Iowa on June 8. More information about these and other ARBA shows will be available at this workshop.

Jasper County Fairgrounds is located in central Iowa in the town of Colfax Iowa. It is east of Des Moines at exit 155. At exit 155, turn south and drive over the small bridge which is the South Skunk River and the fairgrounds will be on your right behind the cement company. Address is 359 N Walnut Street, Colfax Iowa 50054.

Questions can be directed to Lynne Rechterman at 563-260-5295 or Bill Wolfe at 515-556-5123.

This workshop began in 2002 and has been held in the spring in central Iowa with 1086 youth attending since 2002.



MAHASKA COUNTY 4-H PRESENTS

# BUCKET/BOTTLE

ANIMAL

## WORKSHOP

Presenter Jenny Van Zante is going to cover all the essential needs when caring for Bucket/Bottle Animals. She will discuss basic care, talking to a feed nutritionist, record-keeping and how to start working on your Bucket/Bottle Packet to make it stand out from the rest.

### Register TODAY via 4-H Online!

Login to 4-H Online and click on events and filter by county area events.

### Deadline to Register is FEBRUARY 19, 2024

To ensure we have enough materials for all attendees, we ask that you register no later than February 19. There will be a door prize drawing for those that register by the deadline.

### Follow-up Workshop in June

There will be a follow-up workshop in June. This workshop will help you put the finishing touches on your packet and give practice with interviews.

DATE

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20

TIME

6-7 P.M.

WHERE

MAHASKA COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE

### Upcoming Weigh-In Dates

The Swine Weigh-In will take place on March 23 at the Fairgrounds Scale.

The Sheep and Goat Weigh-In will take place on May 11 at the Fairgrounds Scale.



# Reduce, Reuse, Upcycle



[Register on 4-H Online Today!](#)

**Feb. 13 | 5-7 p.m.**

Explore the Communications project area while learning about puppets around the world and creating your very own shadow puppet.

Brant Bollman of Uplifting Puppet Company will give a presentation that you will not want to miss! This workshop is open to all grades. Non 4-H members must create a free 4-H Online account to register. Contact Shannon Rabotski at 641-676-9121 or [rabotski@iastate.edu](mailto:rabotski@iastate.edu) with any questions.

**\$5**  
registration fee



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**4-H**   
**GROWS**  
**HERE**



# Region 18 intermediate trip

## St. Louis City Museum and Cardinals vs. Redsox

Region 18 (Marion, Mahaska, Jasper, Poweshiek counties) 4-H members in 7th grade and above can experience St. Louis for 4-H Day With the Cardinals as they take on the Boston Redsox. Enjoy numerous festivities at the game just for 4-H members!

We will also explore the St. Louis City Museum, an exciting artist-built playground jam-packed with installations ranging from a rooftop ferris wheel to a 10-story spiral slide.

And, of course, we will stop by the iconic Gateway Arch. There are only 12 seats per county, so sign up today! Deadline to register is March 22.

**COST:** \$250

Contact your local extension office for information on grant and scholarship opportunities.

**WHEN:**

Saturday, May 18 a.m.  
to Sunday, May 19 p.m.

**Contact you county's CYC  
with questions or for more  
information**

Jasper County: wilsonsl@iastate.edu

Marion County: ashtinw@iastate.edu

Poweshiek County: xpoweshiek@  
iastate.edu

Mahaska County: rabotski@iastate.  
edu



[www.extension.iastate.edu/4h](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h)

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# Jr. 4-H Omaha Zoo Overnight Safari

## WHAT:

An overnight “Sleeping Bag Safari” to the Henry Doorly Zoo in Omaha. You will sleep near the animals and experience the zoo in a fun new way. Experience behind the scene tours, a night hike, and the Lozier IMAX Theatre, where the screen is as tall as four giraffes and as wide as seven rhinos.



## WHO:

Reg 18 4-H Members in 4th - 6th grades

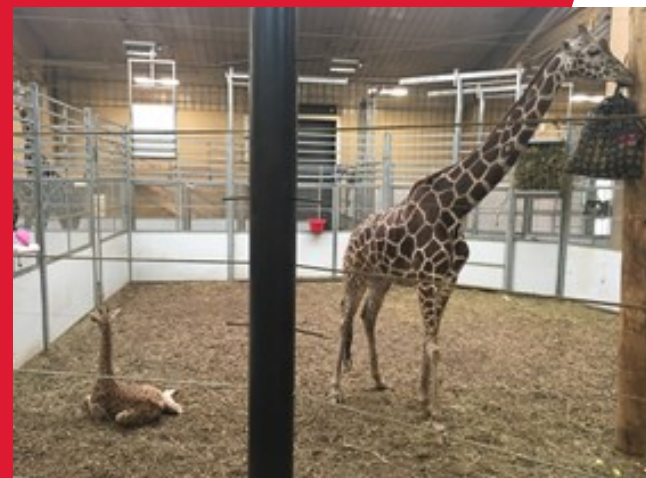
## WHEN:

Friday, April 5 at 4:30 p.m. to  
Saturday, April 06 at 5:00 p.m.

Register in 4HOnline 2.0 under the events tab & send your payment to the office by March 07. Register early, as the seats on the bus fill up fast.

## Cost

**\$170—Scholarships and grants may be available to Mahaska County 4-Hers, contact Shannon for more information [rabotski@iastate.edu](mailto:rabotski@iastate.edu)**





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Helping make 4-H possible  
in Mahaska County.

United Way  
of Mahaska County

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