

# Mills County 4-H Newsletter

April 2024



## Mills County

### 4-H Clubs:

- Balfour  
Barnstormers/  
Clover Kids
- Country Cousins/  
Clover Kids
- Henderson  
Hornets/Ambitious  
Andies & Clover  
Beez
- Future Feeders
- Lively Oaks
- Loyal Lassies/  
Ingraham Straight  
Shooters
- Mills Billies
- Mills County Prize  
Winners
- Silver Clouds
- Silver Creek  
Go-Getters
- Silver Creek  
Crushers

## April is Here

Spring has officially sprung! Nicer weather is on its way, and so are more 4-H events and activities!

This month we will also celebrate Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Week along with National Volunteer Week. Our 4-H program would not be possible or successful without our volunteers, and I encourage you as a 4-H'er to seek out and show appreciation to those who give so much time, energy, and resources to benefit our program!

The animal ID and enrollment deadline is May 15th and only a little over a month away. Don't wait until the last minute! If you are needing any help with this process, please call or email the office and I'd be glad to help.

Wishing you a great month ahead!

**- Amber McClary, Mills CYC**



**Amber McClary**  
County Youth Coordinator  
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**Kevin Pitzen**  
County Director  
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Phone: 712-624-8616

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# Mark Your Calendars!

## COUNTY COUNCIL

Sunday, April 21  
5:00 PM

## CREW

Sunday, April 21  
5:00 PM

## YOUTH COMMITTEE

Sunday, April 21  
3:00 PM  
Extension Office Conference  
Room

## Dates and Deadlines

### April

**1:** 2024 4-H/FFA Fair Book Release Date  
**15-20:** ISU Extension and Outreach Week  
**21-27:** National Volunteer Week  
**25:** Dog Project Meeting\*  
**28:** Goat & Sheep Weigh-In

### May

**2:** Dog Practice Begins  
**7:** Horse Practice Begins  
**7:** Rabbit Tattooing & Showmanship\*  
**15:** Animal ID Deadline & Final Enrollment Deadline  
  
Horse practice will be every Tuesday at 7:00 PM, weather allowing  
  
Dog practice will be every Thursday at 7:00 PM, weather allowing

\* = counts as an additional 4-H event or activity for your attendance requirement

### Upcoming

**June 1-30:** FairEntry is Open  
**June 1:** Poultry PT Testing/ YQCA Certifications Due  
**June 4:** Fair 101 Night\*  
**June 8:** Livestock Showmanship Clinic\*  
**June 11:** Cat Workshop & Show Demonstration\*  
**June 25-27:** Iowa 4-H Youth Conference\*  
**July 1:** State Fair Livestock/ Horticulture Entry Deadline  
**July 2:** Pre-Fair Clean-Up\*  
**July 9:** Clothing/ Communication Contest  
**July 11:** Static Judging Day  
**July 12-16:** Mills County Fair  
**August 8-18:** Iowa State Fair



Have you liked the [Mills County 4-H Facebook page](#)?

Like and follow our page for the latest information and updates on upcoming programs and events, important reminders, and stories of youth enjoying their 4-H experience in Mills County!

## May 15<sup>th</sup> is the Animal ID and Enrollment Deadline—Please Read!

May 15<sup>th</sup> is a very important day in the 4-H world!

ALL 4-H animals (exception of meat rabbits and birds) MUST be ID'ed in 4-H Online by 11:59 PM on May 15<sup>th</sup>. ALL 4-H enrollments must be completed and submitted in 4-H Online by 11:59 PM on May 15<sup>th</sup> and all enrollment fees must be paid.

If you are not enrolled as a 4-H member by this date and time, you will not show at the Mills County Fair as a 4-H exhibitor. If your animal is not ID'ed in 4-H Online by this date and time, it will not show at the Mills County Fair and/or the Iowa State Fair as a 4-H animal.

The animal ID deadline is a STATEWIDE deadline, meaning all 4-H families across Iowa will be inputting information on the website in the coming month. To avoid any website troubles or delays, please do not wait until the last minute!

We will be holding an **animal ID help night on Tuesday, May 14th from 6:00-8:00 PM at the Extension Office**. We will have a computer for families to use and staff will be available to assist with the process. Can't make it to the help night? Please feel free to call our office at 712-624-8616 or email [ambersue@iastate.edu](mailto:ambersue@iastate.edu) with any questions!

Don't Miss the  
**DEADLINE!**

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## 2024 4-H/FFA Fair Book Now Available

The 2024 Mills County Fair Book for 4-H & FFA exhibitors is ready and posted to our website! You can find this document, along with all other important fair information and documents, on our webpage: <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/mills/county-fair>

Please contact the office with any questions!

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## Mills County 4-H Endowment Pancake Fundraiser—THANK YOU!



We would like to express a huge, heartfelt THANK YOU to every single person who sold advance tickets, donated silent auction baskets, attended, and volunteered for the Pancake Feed on March 19<sup>th</sup>!

Thanks to your help and support, we served 244 people. This number is UP from last year!

Between volunteers, parents, and 4-H members, we had FIFTY SIX helpers during this event. We could not have done it without all of you and so appreciate all of the help. THANK YOU!



IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY  
Extension and Outreach

## **Dog Project Meeting April 25<sup>th</sup>, Dog Practice Begins May 2<sup>nd</sup>**

If you are interested in participating in the dog show at fair, please plan to attend the dog project meeting on Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM in the Extension Office Conference Room.

The meeting will give members an opportunity to meet the dog project superintendents, learn about the project offerings, and get important information on weekly dog practices and the dog show that is different from previous years. NO DOGS are allowed at this meeting, but you may bring your dog's rabies certificate if you'd like!

Weekly dog practice will begin on Thursday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 PM in the Commercial Building on the Mills County Fairgrounds. **Members are required to provide a hard copy proof of current rabies vaccination for their dog(s) at the first dog practice.** Practices will continue to be held weekly on Thursdays at 7:00 PM. Practices are dependent on weather and any changes will be sent out to families and posted to the [Mills County 4-H Facebook page!](#)

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## **Goat & Sheep Weigh-In April 28<sup>th</sup>**

The goat & sheep weigh-in will be **Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup> from 2:00-3:00 PM at the Mills County Fairgrounds.**

All goats and sheep planning to be shown as market animals for the county and/or State Fair are required to come to the weigh-in and be tagged. Retinal scans are required for animals intending to be shown as 4-H animals at the Iowa State Fair and the cost is \$5.00 per animal and **MUST** be paid at weigh-in by cash or check.

Any other non-market goat or sheep being shown at the county or State Fair may be brought to be tagged. Please call with any questions!

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## **Horse Practice Begins May 7<sup>th</sup>**

Weekly horse practice will begin on Tuesday, May 7<sup>th</sup> in the horse arena at the Mills County Fairgrounds. There will be a brief meeting prior to the start of practice at 7:00 PM to go over the horse practice rules, horse practice schedule, and inspect tack and helmets.

Practices will continue to be held every Tuesday with warm-up at 6:30 PM and practice starting at 7:00 PM. Practices are dependent on weather and any changes will be out to families and posted to the [Mills County 4-H Facebook Page.](#)

### **A few reminders for any 4-H horse riders:**

- ALL 4-H'ers are required to wear an ASTM/SEI approved helmet when riding during designated 4-H horse practices and shows.
- Only currently enrolled 4-H members and their identified horses can be ridden in the arena during practice.
- All riders must wear full length pants and appropriate riding boots during practice.



## Rabbit Tattooing & Showmanship Clinic May 7<sup>th</sup>

If you are bringing a rabbit to exhibit at fair, it is required to be tattooed. Any 4-H'er needing their rabbit tattooed may bring it on Tuesday, May 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM.

Following the tattooing, there will be a rabbit showmanship clinic (6:30 PM tentative start-time).

Please RSVP for tattooing, the showmanship clinic, or both by Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> by calling 712-624-8616 or emailing [ambersue@iastate.edu](mailto:ambersue@iastate.edu).

## YQCA Certificates Must be Submitted by June 1<sup>st</sup>



YQCA is a mandatory annual ethics training for any 4-H or FFA member showing the following species: beef, swine, sheep, goat, rabbit, and poultry. If you missed our in-person training, you may complete the online training or attend a surrounding county's in-person training.

The online training cost is \$12.00 and the in-person training cost is \$3.00. Regardless of which option you choose, both registration and payment must be done through the YQCA website: <https://yqcaprogram.org/>.

**All YQCA certifications must be completed and the YQCA certificate submitted to the Extension Office by June 1<sup>st</sup>!** Certificates may be submitted by dropping off a hard copy to the office or emailing the copy to [ambersue@iastate.edu](mailto:ambersue@iastate.edu).

Any FairEntry submissions related to the species above will not be approved until the exhibitor has provided a YQCA certificate. Please contact the office with any questions!

## 4-H'ers for 4-H—Donation Forms due by June 15<sup>th</sup>

The 4-H'ers for 4-H is one of the longest running youth campaigns and members of the State 4-H Council Youth Philanthropy Committee are inviting Iowa 4-H clubs to be part of the 2024 campaign!

This year's goal is to raise \$27,000 to support financial aid for enrollment fees, scholarships to attend state-wide events, support State 4-H Conference, and support the State 4-H Council.

Clubs that participate are asked to donate \$4.00 per member. **Donation forms are due to the office by June 15, 2024.** For donation forms and more information, please visit: <https://www.iowa4hfoundation.org/what-we-do/funding-for-4-h-ers/4-h-ers-for-4-h>

## Horticulture & Floriculture Exhibit Resources

Have you ever considered bringing a horticulture or floriculture exhibit to fair? It's a great project area to explore and grow your knowledge in, and our county is lucky to have a Horticulture Program Assistant and Master Gardener Coordinator in house!

Shirley Miller ([shirleym@iastate.edu](mailto:shirleym@iastate.edu)) is a wonderful resource, and we encourage you to reach out to her with any questions or suggestions on your fair projects!



## Fair Book Changes for 2024

With the new year comes change! Please read through the changes for this year's fair book:



- **2024 Poster Communication Themes:** 4-H is.....(open to 4-H members interpretation); Join 4-H; I <3 4-H (2023 National 4-H Week theme); Explore the Jungle of Opportunities (variation of 2024 Iowa 4-H Youth Conference Theme); 4-H Fever (variation of 2024 Iowa State Fair theme)
- **Beef:** The Champion Market Heifer and Champion Market Steer will come back into the ring for the new Supreme Market Beef award. There will also be a Supreme Breeding Beef award added this year.
- **Cat:** The cat show vet inspection will be done prior to the show. Cats and show cage covers must arrive 1 hour prior to the show and be in place 30 minutes prior to the show. The intermediate and senior display of cage exhibitors will not be combined and will be divided into separate classes this year.
- **Dog:** Supplemental dog classes have been removed, as those exhibits fall under animal/vet science. Dog agility penalties have been shifted from a points system to a 2-second addition per fault to the total time of the course. Any off leash exhibitor must be approved by the superintendent following an off-leash trial at dog practice (trial dates TBD).
- **Horse:** Exhibitors may now wear zipper long-sleeve and collared shirts of any solid color. Exhibitors may only enter one horse in each class, excluding open gate classes: trail, western riding, pole bending, barrel racing, and keyhole.
- **Poultry:** Removal of poultry agility, special barnyard mix, and special market broiler classes. Any bird sent home by the vet at check-in will not be allowed to return to the fair for exhibition. Market turkey and geese entries are only required to have two birds of the same age and sex. Maximum of one entry per exhibitor in the market division.
- **Rabbits:** Addition of Himalayan and English Lop purebred classes.
- **Sheep:** Addition of a First Year Showmanship class, open to any 4-H exhibitor in their first year of showing sheep. This is an optional class and exhibitors may participate in this class as well as their regular age division showmanship class.
- **Swine:** Removal of light weight and heavy weight divisions for market swine. Market classes will be divided by sex and weight. A minimum weight of 180lbs is required for pigs to qualify for Champion Market Hog and be sold in the livestock auction.
- **Livestock Auction:** The auction will remain a terminal auction and all animals going through the auction will be taken to a processor via designated transportation approved by Fair Board and Extension.
- **Boothmanship:** Theme is "Livin' in Fairadise". Club booths may be done any time on Tuesday, July 9th between 11:00 AM-7:00 PM or Wednesday, July 10th between 11:00 AM-3:00 PM. Booths will be judged on Friday, July 12th.



## Important Dates and Resources for the 2024 Mills County Fair

Did you know we have a webpage dedicated to all things fair? By visiting <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/mills/county-fair>, you can find all of the fair information, resources, documents, and more! Read below for an overview of important dates to keep in mind.

**June 1-30 FairEntry is Open:** This is different than 4-H Online and a separate but necessary step to sign up for classes at fair. All exhibitor and animal information is transferred from 4-H Online, and families have until 11:59 PM on June 30th to complete their class sign-ups in FairEntry. No late animal class entries will be accepted (be thorough and don't forget showmanship!). Late static entries are allowed but will be charged a \$5.00 late fee per entry.

**July 2, 5:30 PM:** Pre-Fair Clean-Up

**July 9, 5:00 PM:** Clothing & Communication Contest

**July 11, 9:00 AM-3:00 PM:** Static Judging Day

**July 11, 6:00-9:00 PM:** All beef, swine, sheep, goat, poultry, and rabbits will check-in/weigh-in at the fairgrounds. All animals must be in place by 9:00 PM on July 11.

**July 12-16:** Mills County Fair!

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## Iowa 4-H Youth Conference & Animal Science Round-Up June 25-27—Explore the Jungle of Opportunities with Amber in Ames!

Every June, approximately 500 teens take over the campus of Iowa State University for 3 day full of speakers, workshops, dances, a banquet, and service-learning activities! This is open to any youth who has completed 8th through 12th grade—you don't even have to be a 4-H'er to attend! Attendees will experience campus life, meet new people from across the state, and have fun while learning by doing.

If you have a specific interest in animal science, you may take part in Animal Science Round-Up! Animal science round-up is a 3 day immersive program for youth with interest in one of the following areas: beef cattle, dairy cattle, dogs, horse, poultry, sheep, or swine. Youth will spend time on the Iowa State University research and teaching farms work with animals and learning about health, nutrition, behavior, genetics, and reproduction. **Each project is limited to the first 20 youth that sign up!** Evening activities are the same as the 4-H Youth Conference participants.

Cost is \$225.00, but our **Mills County 4-H Endowment will reimburse HALF of the fee to any Mills County 4-H member that participates!** Amber will also be serving as a chaperone this year for the entirety of the event!

**Iowa 4-H Youth Conference:** <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/iowa4hyouthconference>

**Animal Science Round-Up:** <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/animalscienceroundup>

Registration will be open April 1-June 1 and there is additional financial assistance available through the Iowa 4-H Foundation.

Please contact the office or Madeleine Bretey-Smith ([mbretey@iastate.edu](mailto:mbretey@iastate.edu)) with any questions!

## 2024 Hall of Fame Nominations—Submit by April 19<sup>th</sup>

Each year, our county selects a volunteer who has made a significant contribution to our 4-H program to be inducted into the Iowa 4-H Hall of Fame.

This year, we are asking for nominations to be submitted! Nominations should be an individual or couple who has exhibited outstanding service to the Mills County 4-H program over several years. You may submit your nominations here now through April 19<sup>th</sup>: [https://iastate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_3EJjtWwv1ujjpTg](https://iastate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3EJjtWwv1ujjpTg)

Nominations will be considered by Youth Committee, who will make the final decision.

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## Important Swine Identification Information

Mills County does not hold a spring weigh-in for swine. All swine will be tagged by families using the EID tags provided by the office. Tags and taggers are available for pick-up at our office and all swine planning to be brought to either the county or state fair **MUST** be tagged and ID'ed in 4-H Online by May 15<sup>th</sup>. All digits of the tag, along with ear notches, must be entered by **11:59 PM on May 15<sup>th</sup>**. Missing this deadline will result in your animal not being eligible to be shown at county or state fair.

Any swine planning to be shown at the Iowa State Fair must also have a DNA tag, which can be picked up at our office for \$8.00 per DNA tag. **All DNA tags will need to be sealed in the provided envelope and brought back to our office no later than May 13<sup>th</sup>** to be signed by office staff and mailed to the 4-H state office by the May 15<sup>th</sup> deadline.

If you have any questions, or are needing help with tagging, please contact the office!

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## June 8th Livestock Showmanship Clinic—Open to all 4-H'ers

**When:** Saturday, June 8th, 9:00 AM-2:00 PM

**Where:** Mills County Fairgrounds, Malvern, IA

**Cost:** \$20.00 per member

**Who:** Any 4-H member in grades 4-12

Join us for an educational day of learning about showmanship and fitting for the following species: beef, swine, sheep, and goat!

Sponsored by the County Council, the livestock showmanship clinic will provide hands-on activities with all animals, as well as a mock show for youth to practice their skills in the ring. Previous livestock experience is not required!

Hard copies of resources and information will be provided to each participant, as well as lunch. To register, please contact Amber at 712-624-8616 or [ambersue@iastate.edu](mailto:ambersue@iastate.edu)!

**\*A minimum of 10 members must register for the event to be held.\***





# 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.



## **Extension and Outreach Resources**

There are resources available to help you! Find resources for healthy eating, relationships, mental health and wellbeing, personal finance, food safety, and nutrition here: <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/humansciences/>

## **Need someone to talk to?**

Call the Iowa Warm Line at 844-775-9276 to connect with a peer counselor or COVID Recovery Iowa counselor. Visit <https://covidrecoveryiowa.org/> and complete a contact form and a counselor will get back to you.

**Iowa Concern Hotline:** 1-800-447-1985

**National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:** 988

## **Connect with Mills County Extension!**

61321 315th Street

P.O. Box 430

Malvern, IA 51551

**Phone:** 712-624-8616

**Email:** [xmills@iastate.edu](mailto:xmills@iastate.edu)

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