

MUSCATINE COUNTY 4-H HANDBOOK



2023-2024

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY™
Extension and Outreach

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4-H Fast Facts

WHAT IS 4-H?

4-H is a community of 6 million young people across the world who are learning leadership, citizenship, and life skills to make good decisions for their future and their communities' future.

THE FOUR HS

HEAD: To use science, research, and critical thinking to make positive choices

HEART: To be welcoming, inclusive, compassionate, and kind

HANDS: To be generous and give back to the community, county, and world

HEALTH: To take care of yourself and the community by making positive choices

4-H COLORS

GREEN: Green is nature's most common color and stands for life, springtime, youth, and growth

WHITE: Symbolizes purity and high ideals

4-H HISTORY

In 1902, A. B. Graham started a youth program in Clark County, Ohio and began what is now known as 4-H. The first club was called "The Tomato Club" or the "Corn Growing Club". In Iowa, county superintendents O.H. Benson in Wright County, Jesse Field Shambaugh in Page County, and Cap E. Miller in Keokuk County started similar boys and girls clubs to supplement school education. The clubs focused on teaching life skills, learning-by-doing through projects, group meetings, and exhibits.

Today, Iowa 4-H is a tax-supported organization under the United States Department of Agriculture, Iowa State University, and the County Extension Service.



THE 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.

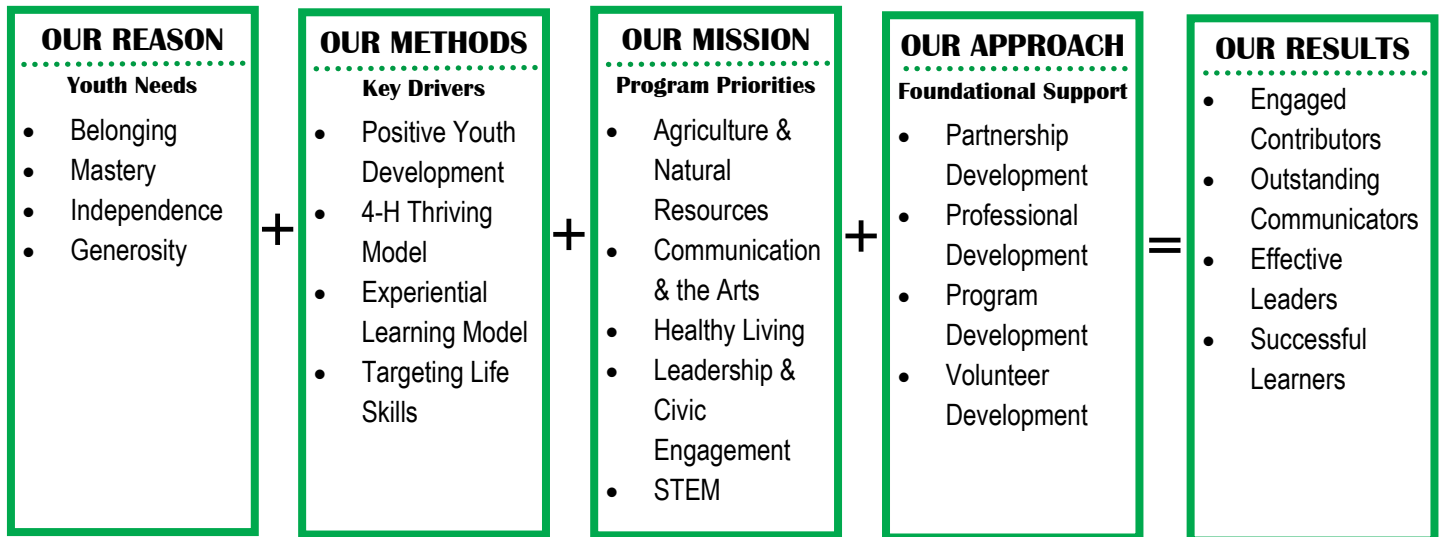
**4-H
MOTTO:**

**“TO MAKE THE
BEST BETTER”**

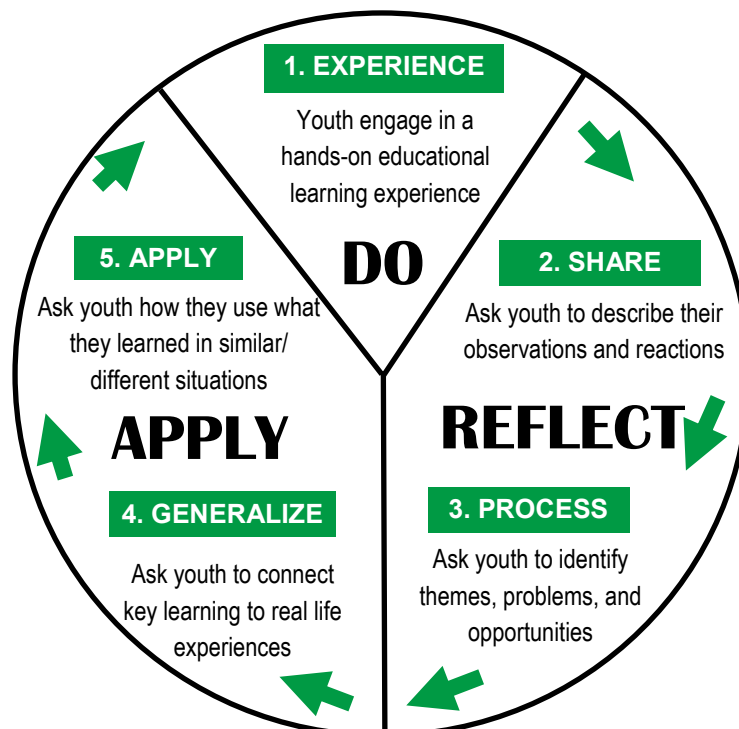
Positive Youth Development

4-H learning experiences are based on the principles and practices of positive youth development. The Iowa 4-H Positive Youth Development experience is outlined in the 4-H Equation and Experiential Learning Model. 4-H strives to empower youth to reach their full potential through youth-adult partnerships and research-based experiences.

4-H EQUATION



EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING MODEL



Club Information

MEMBERSHIP

- Youth that are in 4th-12th grades by September 15 of the 4-H year for which he or she is enrolling may become a 4-H member.
- Members are divided into three grade categories
 - Junior: Grades 4th-6th
 - Intermediate: Grades 7th-8th
 - Senior: Grades 9th-12th
- Club membership is open to all youth in Muscatine County meeting grade requirement, without regard to race, color, sex, or national origin.
- A member may hold membership in only one county.
- A 4-H club member is expected to:
 - Attend their local club meetings each month
 - Enroll in and carry out an approved project
 - Evaluate his or her experience through a record keeping system
- A 4-H club member is to accept the following responsibilities
 - Be host or hostess for a club meeting
 - Give a presentation at a club meeting and serve on committees
 - Read and follow Muscatine County 4-H Program Guidelines
- In the event a youth is absent from a club meeting youth should:
 - Inform the club leader that they will not be present
 - Find out what happened at the meeting by reading meeting minutes
- The 4-H year begins on September 1 and ends on August 31 of the following year

CLUB OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Conducts meetings and appoints committees

VICE PRESIDENT: In charge of the program plans

SECRETARY: Keeps attendance records and minutes. Send minutes to absent members and Extension Office

TREASURER: Pays club bills and deposits fund received

RECREATION LEADER: Helps plan parties and leads games

REPORTER: Writes newspaper stories about club events

HISTORIAN: Keeps a lasting record of the club's yearly story

PHOTOGRAPHER: Takes pictures at club meetings and activities

MUSCATINE CLUBS

CLUB	LEADER	LOCATION	MEETING TIME	EMPHASIS
Goshen Gladiators	Rebekka Herrold	Atalissa area	1 st Sunday of the month	General activities
Lake 4-H	Wendy Brendel	Muscatine area	3 rd Monday of the month	General activities
Sew Creative	Becki Petersen	County wide	2 nd Monday of the month	Sewing
Stampeding Clovers	Kathy Smith	County wide	1 st Monday of the month	Horses & General
Sweetland 4-H	Ashley Wiebe	Muscatine area	1 st Sunday of the month	General activities
Unidos	Jesse Garcia	County wide	4 th Monday of the month	General activities
Wapsie 4-H	Jessica Madsen	West Liberty area	1 st Sunday of the month	General activities
West Liberty Latino-Americanos	Lupita Saucedo	West Liberty area	Various	General activities
Wilton Hustlers	Dan Marine	Wilton area	1 st Sunday of the month	General activities

- Youth can also enroll in 4-H as an independent 4-H member. Independent members participate in planned learning outside of a club setting. Their work is self-directed with guidance and support of parents and mentors. Independent membership may be the right option for young people who find it difficult to attend meetings for a variety of reasons.
- New clubs may organize at any time of the year with approval from the Muscatine County Extension Office.

Project Areas

Part of the enrollment process of joining 4-H is to select projects or areas of interest in which the 4-H'er wants to learn in the current year. A project is an area of study in which each member chooses to participate, learn by accomplishment, and explore future career possibilities.

Carrying out a project will help individuals "learn by doing" in a real-life situation. They gain valuable information and develop skills in working. In addition, 4-H members can gain experience in decision making when they decide on projects and the quality of work to be performed. Members also learn to accept responsibility by completing project work. Finally, they can learn the value and techniques of keeping accurate records. As 4-H'ers gain knowledge and experience, they are encouraged to increase the size, scope, and number of projects.

AG & NATURAL RESOURCES

Agromony | Get your hands dirty! Find out how soils, bugs, beetles and more affect your crops like corn, soybeans, wheat, hay or silage.

Environment & Sustainability | Make the earth a better place to live by learning about plants, animals, habitats, saving energy, renewable resources, or recycling!



Horticulture | Horticulture is the science, business and art of growing and marketing fruits, vegetables, flowers, and ornamental plants.



Outdoor Adventures | You can become the ultimate explorer by designing your own backpacking, biking, camping, canoeing, fishing or hiking adventure!

Shooting Sports | 4-H Safety and Education in Shooting Sports (SESS) develops the skills and disciplines of shooting in archery, rifle, shotgun, muzzleloader, and wildlife.

Entomology | Entomology is the study of insects and all six-legged creatures. There are insects everywhere on Earth, even in the coldest Arctic!



Wildlife | Learn how to care for wildlife like birds, mammals, fish, reptiles, and amphibians, so everyone can enjoy it for a long, long time.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Civic Engagement | Citizenship is the opportunity, right, and responsibility to contribute to shaping the world around you and provide services to others. Get into action!



Communication | Do you like to talk to your friends? Act? Write reports? Read books? Explore the exciting world of communication and learn more about yourself and others.

Leadership | Leaders influence and support others in a positive manner for a shared goal by being a member of a team. Learn about yourself and how to work with others.

Self Determined | A self-determined project (created by you) allows YOU to decide what you want to learn, what you want to do, and how you want to share what you learn.



ANIMALS



Beef | You can select from a breeding or a market animal. Breeding animals allow you to start your own herd while market animals produce meat products for people.

Dairy Cattle | This project area will help you learn about the selection, production, management, health and showing of dairy animals.

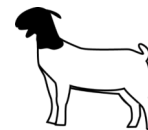
Dairy Goat | Learn marketing, processing, distribution, consumption, and use of dairy products. Learn the nutritive value of dairy products, promote their use, and much more!

Dogs | The dog project helps you explore what kind of dog fits into your family's lifestyle and how to be an excellent trainer and caretaker of your dog.



Horse and Pony | Horse and Pony is an exciting project area because you can participate whether you own a horse or not! Discover all the aspects about raising and riding horses.

Meat Goat | This project area will help you learn about the selection, production, management, health and showing of meat goats.



Pets | The 4-H pet project helps you explore what kind of pet fits into your family's lifestyle and how to be an excellent caretaker of your pet.



Poultry | Learn about chickens from the egg to the table. Get involved in embryology, growing and managing a small flock of chickens.

Rabbit | In the rabbit project you can not only learn about selection and raising your animals, but also dive into health issues, management practices and careers!



Sheep | In the 4-H sheep project you can learn bout breeds, selection, grooming, production, management, showmanship, marketing, and careers.



Swine | The swine project area will help you learn about the selection, production, breeding and management of swine.

Veterinary Science | Are you interested in learning how to keep animals healthy? You can learn more about animal health and about how animal health affects public health!

CREATIVE ARTS



Digital Storytelling | Learn all about animation, video production, editing, sound production, image manipulation, and the secrets to telling a great story.

Music | Music rocks! Music sets the mood and is the focus for voice or instrumental performances. Challenge yourself to learn or increase your skill level!



Photography | This 4-H project is designed to help you explore the world of photography. Learn about camera equipment, create great images and share what you have learned with others!

Visual Art | Do you want to express yourself, be creative, or make an impression? You will get to work with paint, chalk, metal, wood, origami, computers and much more. Be yourself, explore visual arts!



FAMILY CONSUMER SCIENCE

Child Development | Discover how children develop, create safe places to grow, and learn leadership skills, with all of the opportunities available with child development projects!



Clothing | Learn to make your style your own and timeless in the clothing project. Discover what looks best on your body, how to make it, where to buy it, and how to care for it.

Consumer Management | Use the consumer management project area to get more bang for your buck! Find out how to use your money to get the things you want.

Food and Nutrition | In this project area you can do fun experiments, prepare recipes, and learn about food ingredients, food characteristics, nutrition and food safety.



Health | From treating bug bites to finding safe playgrounds to starting a Kids Walk to School program - the health project helps you explore health and wellness in the world around you.

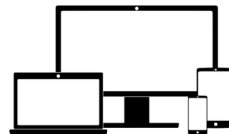


Home Improvement | If you are interested in creating a new color scheme, selecting new accessories for a room, or choosing new window covers, this is the project area for you!

Sewing and Needle Arts | Use your sewing skills and creativity to make clothes, pillowcases, horse blankets, or anything else you can stitch, knit or crochet!

STEM

Computer Science | Explore the digital side of life by building, learning how to use, or program computers for gaming, staying connected, solving problems, and building virtual networks.



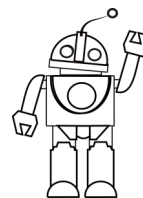
Mechanics | Learn practical applications and basic principles of power, energy, electricity, and structural and mechanical engineering. Experience the technology firsthand and increase technical skills.

Woodworking | Learn about types of wood, uses for various kinds of wood, how to make connections and joints, safety tips, common tools and project ideas from the very simple to impressive!



Tractor | Explore your interest in tractors. From this self-directed project, you can develop skills and interests related to safety maintenance and repair, driving skills, or restoration.

Robotics | Robots do surgery, build cars, and assist us with our lives. This project is all about these amazing machines and learning to build and program your own robots to solve issues you face.



Aerospace | Do you want to learn about flight or space through flying kites, hot air balloons, airplanes, rockets, or astronomy? Learn about our universe, galaxy, and what's beyond the Milky Way.

STEM | Being scientific involves being curious, observing, asking questions how things happen and learning about how to find answers. Do your own research and form your own conclusions.



To learn more about these
project areas visit

www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/projects-list

Exhibit Opportunities

MUSCATINE COUNTY FAIR

As an outgrowth of a 4-H project area, 4-H'ers may want to take an exhibit to the Muscatine County Fair. An exhibit is an item for display that was created as a result of participation in a project area. For example, a plate of cookies would be an exhibit that could be displayed as a result of participation in the Food and Nutrition project area. Although not a requirement, 4-Her's are encouraged to exhibit at the Muscatine County Fair. 4-H members are encouraged to exhibit something from each of the project areas in which they are enrolled.

A fair book with a complete list of classes and rules is published each year and available on the Muscatine County Extension website. Exhibits are entered into the Muscatine County Fair through the online program, FairEntry.

In addition to static and livestock exhibits, there are also clothing and communication events that 4-Her's can use to exhibit their projects. The judging of these events take place prior to the fair, but are showcased and awarded ribbons during the fair. More information on all of these events can be found in the fair book.

FASHION REVUE: 4-Her's model clothing articles they have made themselves.

CLOTHING SELECTION: 4-Her's model clothing articles and outfits they have selected for a particular purpose (Youth do not need to make the clothing.)

THE \$15 CHALLENGE: 4-Her's model an outfit for a specific purpose that cost less than \$15 and was purchased at a garage sale, consignment store, or thrift shop. .

EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATION: A formal presentation that teaches the audience about something, is well-rehearsed, and followed by questions.

WORKING EXHIBITS: An informal presentation where 4-Her's offer the audience a hands-on activity and directly interact with the audience one-on-one

EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING: Participants are given a topic and have 30 minutes to prepare a speech on the topic. Only available to Senior 4-Her's.

IOWA STATE FAIR

4-H members who are in 5th-12th grades by September 15 of the previous year are eligible to exhibit in 4-H events at the Iowa State Fair. Static exhibits must first be entered into the Muscatine County Fair and selected to be exhibited at the Iowa State Fair. Livestock exhibits are self-nominated and do NOT need to be entered into the Muscatine County Fair and selected. Exhibitors are able to show the same animals at the County Fair and State Fair.

REGIONAL & NATIONAL LIVESTOCK SHOWS

Several regional and national shows are available for 4-Hers to exhibit their livestock. Some shows (Ak-Sar-Ben, SouthEast Iowa Showdown) often use the 4-H/FFA Livestock Shows at the County Fair as a qualifying show. However, Muscatine 4-H is not affiliated with these or any other non-4-H show. For information on other livestock shows, please contact the show organizer.

Record Keeping

4-Hers set goals, carry out those plans, and evaluate their achievements. This is done with the use of a 4-H Record Keeping System. Members should keep track of their project goals and expenses throughout the year. Materials are available from the Extension Office to assist with record keeping.

To complete a project, records must be completed and given to your club leader or the Extension Office. Club leaders will evaluate member records and return them to the member. White, red, blue, and purple seals are awarded to members based on the quality of the records and the member's club participation. The member's record keeping system is evaluated for recognition for the 4-Hers accomplishments.

Recognition

COUNTY AWARDS

Each winter, 4-Hers are encouraged to apply for County Awards in their grade level (junior, intermediate, senior) and program priority/project area (Agriculture & Natural Resources, Communication & the Arts, Healthy Living, Leadership & Civic Engagement, and STEM). 4-H members will complete an application and interview as part of the awards process. Intermediate and Senior 4-Hers are also required to submit a resume of their previous and current activities, jobs, and awards.

STATE/NATIONAL RECOGNITION

Several opportunities are available for State/National Recognition. These include selection for State 4-H Council, National 4-H Congress, National 4-H Conference, Iowa 4-H Reporter Program, and State Project Area Awards. Senior 4-H members are eligible for these opportunities. Applications and interviews are administered by Iowa 4-H.

Leadership Opportunities

CLUB OFFICER

Any member is eligible to be elected as a club officer. Officers are elected in the fall at the start of the new 4-H Program Year. Officer positions include president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, recreation leaders, reporter, historian, and photographer. See your club's program or ask your leader about details on running for an officer position in your club.

COUNTY COUNCIL

The Muscatine County 4-H Council is comprised of youth in grades 9-12 with an interest in planning county-wide activities for Muscatine County 4-H'ers. Council members apply for a year-long term and assist with fair activities, service projects, mentoring younger members, and various events and programs.

IOWA 4-H YOUTH CONFERENCE

Every June, almost 900 teenagers converge on the campus of Iowa State University for 3 days full of speakers, workshops, mixers, dances, a banquet, and community service activities. The Iowa 4-H Youth Conference is for any youth who has completed the 8th grade and is interested in growing, learning, and meeting new people. Within the conference, there are different educational tracks such as animal science or photography.

CITIZENSHIP WASHINGTON FOCUS

Citizenship Washington Focus is a leadership and citizenship event hosted in Washington D.C. where 4-H members learn how to be citizen leaders and make a difference in their communities. Participants enjoy a behind-the-scenes look at our nation's capital and the chance to meet members of Congress, develop communication, leadership, and citizenship skills through hands-on-learning and group activities, and build new and lasting friendships. 4-H members who have completed grades 9-12 are eligible to participate.

4-H CONNECT RETREAT

The 4-H Connect Retreat provides multicultural youth in grades 8-11 the opportunity to connect their culture with Iowa 4-H and Iowa State University while making connections with youth from other cultures across Iowa. Youth participants will gather to experience 4-H Healthy Living, STEM, Leadership & Civic Engagement, and Communication & the Arts workshops through a cultural perspective.

STATES' 4-H EXCHANGE

States' 4-H Summer Outbound programs provide American 4-H youth ages 12-18 with the opportunity to travel to foreign countries for a cultural immersion experience. Outbound delegates live with volunteer host families and engage in experiential learning about a new way of life. Delegates experience aspects of daily life that allow them to more deeply understand both their host culture and their own culture.

4-H Communication

CLOVER EXPRESS

The Clover Express is the Muscatine County 4-H newsletter that is emailed to all 4-H members on the first of each month. It contains important information, deadlines, and new activities and events that are happening in Muscatine 4-H. Be sure to read the Clover Express each month and reach out to the Muscatine County Extension & Outreach Office if you have any questions about its contents.

4HONLINE

4hOnline is the enrollment and registration website and program used by Iowa 4-H. This is where members officially enroll in 4-H, enroll in project areas, enter livestock ID's to show at the County Fair, and register for events. This is also where volunteers sign up and participate in trainings.

EMAIL

Email is the primary way that the Muscatine County Extension & Outreach office will communicate information about 4-H. Be sure that your 4hOnline email is current and accurate as this is the email address that will be used. The Clover Express and other important updates will be sent to your 4hOnline email address. Please check it often! If you do not have access to an email account, please contact the Muscatine County Extension & Outreach office.

Adult Volunteers

Muscatine 4-H could not exist without the generosity and dedication of adult volunteers. There are a variety of ways you can help out throughout the county. If you are interested in becoming a 4-H volunteer, please contact the Muscatine County Extension & Outreach office to begin the training and screening process.

CLUB LEADER

Each 4-H club in Muscatine County is lead by adult volunteers called club leaders. General leaders are volunteers who help to set up meeting times and locations, coordinate club activities, and help to share information about Muscatine 4-H. Project leaders are volunteers who assist general leaders and help 4-H'ers with their project areas.

CHAPERONES

Volunteers are always needed to chaperone various 4-H activities, events, and trips. Learn about chaperoning opportunities through the Clover Express, club meetings, and communication from the Muscatine County Extension & Outreach office.

4-H Vocabulary

Project

A 4-H project is an area of emphasis in which a 4-H member enrolls, studies, learns, and keeps records. Examples of project areas include photography, swine, or horticulture.

Exhibit

A 4-H exhibit is an item resulting from work in a project area that a 4-H member has chosen to bring to the fair and have evaluated by a judge. For example, a 4-H member may enroll in the woodworking project area and choose to bring birdhouse as an exhibit to the fair.

Static Exhibit

A static exhibit is any fair exhibit that is a non-animal exhibit. These exhibits are displayed in the 4-H building on the fairgrounds. Examples include photography, horticulture, food and nutrition, and woodworking.

4-H Program Coordinator

Employee of Iowa State University Extension & Outreach of Muscatine County who oversees all 4-H clubs, programs, and activities in the county. This individual supports all 4-H families.

Youth Program Specialist

Employee of Iowa 4-H who supports 4-H programs in several counties in Iowa. This individual works closely with the 4-H Program Coordinator and assists with workshops, volunteer training and support, and Iowa 4-H guidelines.

Fair Book

Document that includes all information related to the 4-H/FFA shows at the Muscatine County Fair. Includes rules, classes, and show times.

Fair Premium

Prize money given to all Muscatine County Fair exhibitors in recognition for their exhibit. Premium amounts varies depending on ribbon received and division entered.

Ribbon Auction

Event at the Muscatine County Fair that 4-H and FFA members with exhibits in beef, swine, sheep, meat goat, and broiler chickens can participate in to receive a monetary donation from community businesses and members to support their project.

Parliamentary Procedure

Procedure used to conduct 4-H business meetings to create an organized and fair meeting. Business items must be moved, seconded, and voted on in order to be passed.

FairEntry

Website used to enter an exhibit into the Muscatine County Fair.

YQCA

Youth Quality Care of Animals. Training required for 4-H'ers to complete to exhibit beef, bucket calves, sheep, swine, dairy goats, meat goats, poultry, and/or rabbits at the Muscatine County Fair that teaches food safety, animal well-being, and character development.

4-H Calendar



SEPTEMBER

4-H program year begins

Record books due

OCTOBER

National 4-H Week

CloverFest

NOVEMBER

Club Officer Training

New Member Night

National 4-H Congress

DECEMBER

Beef Weigh-In

Scholarship Workshop

FEBRUARY

YQCA Training

Market beef ID's due in 4hOnline

County Awards & State Recognition

Applications due

MARCH

Equine Extravaganza

State Science Technology Fair

APRIL

National 4-H Conference

Livestock Quiz Bowl

MAY

Sheep and Meat Goat weigh-in

Sheep, swine, meat/dairy goat, breeding beef, horse, market broiler, and dog ID's due in 4hOnline

FairEntry opens

JUNE

FairEntry late fee deadline

Iowa 4-H Youth Conference

JULY

State fair rabbit ID's due in 4hOnline

YQCA training deadline

FairEntry closes

Clothing and Communication fair exhibit judging

Muscatine County Fair

State Fair Entries due

State Crop Scouting Contest

AUGUST

Iowa State Fair

State Meat Judging Contest

Contacts

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Heidi Hoffman

County Director
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MY CLUB

My Club Name _____

Leaders' Names _____

Leader Contact Information
